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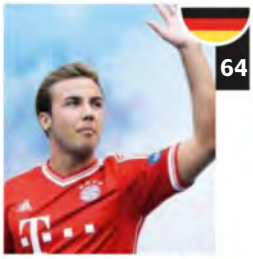

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In Pictures

The global game caught on camera

HONG KONG...Manchester City's Yaya Toure (in blue) does his best on a rain-sodden pitch in the pre-season Premier League Asia Trophy Final against Sunderland

BRAZIL...Leonardo Silva celebrates scoring Atletico Mineiro's second goal in the Libertadores Cup Final second leg against Olimpia

HOLLAND...Feyenoord's Graziano Pelle (left) volleys spectacularly past defender Rasmus Bengtsson of Twente

ECUADOR...the coffin of Christian Benitez is carried to the cemetery after his funeral service in Quito

MALAYSIA...a local Barcelona fan wears a mask as he watches the team train while on tour in Kuala Lumpur

TURKEY...it's a battle of the hairstyles as Salzburg's Kevin Kampl (in white) is challenged by Raul Meireles of Fenerbahce in the Champions League

RUSSIA...Zenit fans march towards the Petrovsky Stadium to attend their team's home match against Kuban Krasnodar

PICTURES OF THE MONTH QR CODE

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FROM THE EDITOR

This is the second edition of *World Soccer* to be published during the 2013-14 European season – and we still don't know where Gareth Bale and Wayne Rooney will be playing when the Champions League group stage kicks off in mid-September.

Bale and Rooney have not been included in our Players to Watch (page 47), for obvious reasons. While the length of the summer transfer window is a minor inconvenience for the production schedule of a monthly magazine, the wider issue needs to be addressed.

> Limiting the transfer window to a month in July would see clubs kick off the league season in August with settled squads

The window was originally conceived to bring transfers in line with UEFA's competition deadlines. But it has succeeded only in boosting the bank balances of agents, while unsettling most clubs.

The sensible thing to do would be to limit the window to the month of July, or even a fortnight within July, thereby allowing clubs to kick off the league season at the start of August with settled squads, and everyone else with their sanity intact.

Bale or no Bale, we will publish our guide to the Champions League next month. As always, it will also be available in digital format (right). See you then.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

1. Atletico Mineiro win Libertadores Cup for the first time ..... page 28
2. Doping scandal in Germany ..... page 22
3. Gerardo Martino replaces Tito Vilanova at Barcelona ..... page 17
4. USA win the CONCACAF Gold Cup ..... page 40
5. Borussia Dortmund gain their revenge and beat Bayern Munich in German Super Cup ..... page 35
6. Anzhi owner puts players up for sale ..... page 38
7. Ecuador international Christian Benitez dies aged 28 ..... page 8
8. Internazionale look for foreign investment ..... page 36
9. Europe's biggest stars snub the Premier League in favour of France and Germany ..... page 50
10. A winter World Cup in 2022 moves closer ..... page 80

ECUADOR

Benitez died from undetectable heart defect

Christian Benitez, the 27-year-old former Birmingham City and Club America forward, died from a heart problem that could not have been detected before his sudden death, shortly after playing his first game for Qatari club El Jaish.

Benitez...Ecuador international

Initial reports claimed Benitez had died from peritonitis, a serious stomach disorder. However, a second autopsy carried out in Ecuador confirmed that Benitez suffered from an arterial heart ailment.

There are no suggestions that the summer heat in Qatar played any role in contributing to his death.

Benitez, who played a crucial role in Ecuador's World Cup qualifying campaign, had joined El Jaish in a £10million transfer from Club America after winning the Mexican league last season.

ENGLAND

No repeat...Chelsea and Aston Villa met in last season's NextGen Final

NextGen Series suspended

The NextGen Series, the youth competition featuring under-19 players from some of Europe's top clubs, has been suspended for the 2013-14 season. Mark Warburton and Justin Andrews, co-founders of the tournament, claimed a lack of funding had forced them to cancel this season's competition.

"It is hugely disappointing that an event of this nature, designed to assist with the development of Europe's elite players, should have to take such action," said a statement from Warburton and Andrews. "But we hope to be back next season with an even better tournament."

The move comes amid plans by UEFA to launch a youth league for under-19s, featuring teams that qualify for the Champions League group stage. Some clubs are believed to have had concerns over whether they could actually compete in both competitions.

"It was a routine intervention which will not affect his performances on the field"

Roberto Assis, the agent and brother of Ronaldinho, admits the Brazilian has had dental work on his famous toothy features

QATAR 2022

Winter of discontent...Scudamore against switch

Scudamore attacks winter proposals

The Premier League clubs are likely to oppose any move towards a winter World Cup in 2022 after chief executive Richard Scudamore said it would be "nigh on impossible" to play the tournament in the winter months to avoid the summer heat in Qatar.

"They've decided to hold the World Cup in the summer in Qatar – that's their decision," Scudamore said.

"If FIFA decide – and it's their decision not ours as to where they hold the World Cup – then they need to move the location if it can't be held in the summer. They can't just on a whim decide to move it to the winter, that's a very different issue. It's extremely difficult, nigh on impossible in our view."

The FIFA executive committee will discuss the issue in October and a working party could be set up to examine possible options.

In Germany, opinion is divided. FIFA ExCo member Theo Zwanziger said of the decision to award the finals to Qatar: "It was a blatant mistake". However, Bayern Munich president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, chairman of the European Club Association, has declared his support for a winter switch.

"I think it's quite attractive, especially for us in Germany," he said. "This means that you could play a World Cup in January and February and when maybe the 2026 World Cup comes back to Europe, you could play it in the summer."

HEROES & VILLAINS

MONACO

The newly promoted French club paid for the France homeless team to play in their World Cup finals in Poland this summer.

STOKE CITY

The club are offering free coach travel for supporters to all of their Premier League away games this season.

Cheap away days...free travel for Stoke City fans

WOODROW WEST & IAN GAYNAIR

The two Belize players admitted rejecting bribes ahead of their country's first-ever CONCACAF Gold Cup game, which they lost 6-1 to the USA.

Incorruptible ...West (left) and Gaynair

MAURICIO VIANA

The Santiago Wanderers goalkeeper saved a last-minute penalty in a Chilean league match against Audax Italiano, unaware that he had perforated his intestine earlier in the game.

Hofmann...not the best of starts

MAXIMILIAN HOFMANN

The Rapid Vienna teenager gave away a penalty and was sent off 90 seconds into his senior debut for the club in their 4-2 Austrian Bundesliga win against Sturm Graz.

THE GLAZER FAMILY

The Manchester United owners engaged lawyers who tried, unsuccessfully, to prevent a bid by the club's supporters trust to list Old Trafford as a "community asset", which would protect the stadium in the event of a future sale of the club.

The Glazers...upsetting fans once more

ANDRANIK ARSENYAN & HOVHANNES AVAGYAN

The Armenian referee and assistant were suspended by UEFA after they admitted trying to manipulate the outcome of July's Europa League tie between Inter Turku and Vikingur in which they officiated. Vikingur won the second leg of the first-qualifying round game 1-0 to go through 2-1 on aggregate.

BORISLAV BALDZHIYSKI

The 22-year-old former Bulgaria Under-21 and Slavia Sofia midfielder has been charged with murder after a man was beaten to death in front of a casino in Sofia. Baldzhiyski could face up to 20 years in jail if found guilty.

"They were developed better physically, but everybody always said that was because they drank more beer"

Holland's Johan Cruyff on the claims of systematic doping by West Germany in the 1960s and 1970s

GOALS we'd like to see again

To see video footage of these goals, and many more that we have selected, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the videos by logging on to http://bit.ly/1cvgoia

1 KARIM BENZEMA
Real Madrid v Los Angeles Galaxy
This is all about the 30-yard pass with the outside of his boot by Isco. Benzema then does the easy part of controlling the ball and side-footing home from just inside the penalty area.

2 VLADIMIR MARIN
Deportivo Cali v Once Caldas
A swerving left-footed free-kick from just short of the centre circle flies past goalkeeper Jose Cuadrado and bounces in off the underside of the crossbar.

3 KEVIN DE BRUYNE
Chelsea v Malaysia XI
Times his run perfectly to receive a knock-down from Romelo Lukaku before volleying from the edge of the penalty area past the goalkeeper.

4 MATHIEU VALBUENA
Marseille v Sampdoria
A great passing move by Marseille ends with Valbuena chipping the goalkeeper.

5 KAREL PITAK
Jablonec v Stromsgodset
A delicate lob from the edge of the penalty area secures victory in this Europa League tie.

6 MORTEN NORDSTRAND
Nordsjaelland v Copenhagen
Meets a cross from Mario Ticinovic on the edge of the six-yard area with a bicycle kick.

WINNERS

RONALDINHO
Became the sixth player to win the Libertadores Cup and Champions League, joining Cafu, Dida, Roque Junior, Walter Samuel and Carlos Tevez.

USA
Victory in the CONCACAF Gold Cup Final set a new national record of 11 consecutive wins for the US.

BURUNDI & MAURITANIA
Qualified for the African Nations Championship – their first appearance in a major tournament.

LOSERS

HIBERNIAN
The Scottish side's 7-0 defeat at home to Malmo in the Europa League was their heaviest ever loss in Europe.

ADMIRA WACKER
Were 1-0 up, but had three players sent off and conceded three penalties as they lost 7-1 away to Grodig.

WERDER BREMEN & BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH
The two Bundesliga teams lost to third division sides in the German Cup, beaten by Saarbrucken and Darmstadt respectively.

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"They have bazookas, but we won't respond with only bows and arrows. We will try to find an answer"

Marseille coach Elie Baup takes aim at Paris Saint-Germain and Monaco

15 MATCHES THAT MATTERED

Recent crunch games from around the globe

ZAMBIA 2
ZIMBABWE 0
Victory over the defending champions saw Zambia lift the COSAFA Cup on home soil – equalling the record of four tournament wins.

UTRECHT 3
DIFFERDANGE 3
After a 2-1 first-leg win, the club from Luxembourg caused one of the early upsets of this season's Europa League by scoring three times in Holland.

ATLETICO MINEIRO 2
OLIMPIA 0 (aet)
(Atletico won on penalties)
Atletico overturned a 2-0 deficit from the first leg in Paraguay to take the Final to penalties and win their first Libertadores Cup.

AZ 2
AJAX 3 (aet)
Ajax came from two goals down to beat AZ in the Dutch Super Cup. Club captain Siem De Jong scored the winner in the 13th minute of extra time.

SOUTH KOREA 1
JAPAN 2
Japan won their first ever East Asian Cup. A 2-1 victory over the host nation in their final game was enough to see them top the four-team group.

USA 1
PANAMA 0
A 69th-minute goal from substitute Brek Shea in the Final in Chicago was enough to seal the USA's fifth victory in the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

FRANCE 0
SERBIA 1
A goal from midfielder Andrija Lukovic secured victory in the Final of the European Under-19 Championship in Marijampole, Lithuania.

NEW YORK COSMOS 2
FORT LAUDERDALE STRIKERS 1
Playing their first competitive match for 29 years, the newly reformed Cosmos won their opening game of the new NASL season.

AL AHLY 0
ORLANDO PIRATES 3
The South African club produced a massive shock when they comprehensively ended Al Ahly's run of 23 home games unbeaten in the CAF Champions League.

BORDEAUX 0
MONACO 2
Monaco's €60m Colombia striker Radamel Falcao grabbed a late goal on his Ligue 1 debut after Emmanuel Riviere had opened the scoring for the visitors.

PORTO 3
VITORIA GUIMARAES 0
First-half goals from Lica, Jackson Martinez and Lucho Gonzalez were enough to give Porto a 20th Portuguese Super Cup success.

MANCHESTER UNITED 2
WIGAN ATHLETIC 0
Two goals from Dutch striker Robin Van Persie at Wembley handed new United manager David Moyes his first trophy – the Community Shield.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 4
BAYERN MUNICH 2
Marco Reus scored twice as Dortmund gained some revenge for May's Champions League defeat with victory in the German Super Cup.

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 2
BORDEAUX 1
An injury-time winner from Brazilian defender Alex gave PSG victory in the French Super Cup, which was held in the Gabonese capital of Libreville.

FLUMINENSE 2
FLAMENGO 3
Former Brazil coach Mario Menezes saw his team come from behind to win the "Fla-Flu" derby at the newly refurbished Maracana.

Jim HOLDEN

AT THE HEART OF THE GAME

New men make new Premier League the most open yet

The hype has been even more frenzied than usual ahead of the new Premier League season, not least because another TV channel – this time BT Sport – is trying to muscle in on the long-term hegemony of Sky.

That particular battle will be a thrilling sideshow to the media analysts and those obsessed by the nuances of television politics. For the rest of us, it is the sight and sound of new managers at each of the top three clubs that truly fires the fascination.

How will David Moyes fare in replacing the irreplaceable as the successor to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United? Can Manuel Pellegrini make an instant impact at Manchester City with no experience of English football? Will Jose Mourinho be the prodigal son returned at Chelsea, or will he be just another man who proves the old football wisdom that you "never go back" to a club?

The trio all have superb credentials, and they all talk a wonderful game, but that is no guarantee of success.

They also arrive at a moment when English clubs have been overtaken in the Champions League by the talent of Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund, and threatened further by the new wealth of Paris Saint-Germain and Monaco.

It has been a shock to see English clubs outbid for the brightest players, such as Mario Gotze, Edinson Cavani, Radamel Falcao, Thiago Alcantara and Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

The EPL, as it is known outside the British Isles, needs the rejuvenation that is coming this season. Actually, we might more accurately call it the EWPL, (the England and Wales Premier League) now that 10 per cent of its clubs are Welsh. Swansea City continue to improve under the astute management of Michael Laudrup, while Cardiff City will be hoping to make a similar impression to their neighbours on their Premier League debut.

The sense of renewal is also evident in the fact the Premier League is now awash with ambitious, intelligent, youthful managers demanding their teams play pass-and-move combination football. Think of Brendan Rodgers at Liverpool and Andre Villas-Boas at Tottenham Hotspur, as well as Roberto Martinez at Everton and Paul Lambert at Aston Villa. They are all progressives. So is the less celebrated Mauricio Pochettino, a manager who was appointed amid much scepticism last season at Southampton, but who transformed the club and won the loyalty of his players.

It leaves the impression that Arsene Wenger is now almost the dinosaur of English football. An amazing statistic is that he has been in charge of Arsenal (17 years) for longer than the total time all the other 19 Premier League bosses have been at their current clubs. On the other hand, will all the changes at rival teams help Wenger to end a run of eight seasons without a trophy for Arsenal?

> Wenger has been at Arsenal longer than all the other Premier League managers at their current clubs put together

The question highlights the genuine intrigue among fans. It looks likely to be the most unpredictable campaign for many a year – and so much the better after a couple of mediocre seasons. Even educated guesswork about the favourites to win the title will have to wait until the end of the transfer window and a conclusion to its many sagas of disloyalty, discontent, potential record fees and allegedly emphatic "Not For Sale" notices.

Rarely has there been a summer with so much chatter, even if most of it was a hurricane of hot air on corporate promotional tours, signifying nothing but nevertheless endlessly scrutinised for hidden meaning.

One day there was Mourinho putting on a front of calm maturity, hoping to appear almost avuncular. Another day there was Pellegrini speaking with gentle authority, trying to fly in quietly under the radar.

Moyes was obliged to answer more questions than all the rest combined, and confessed to feeling "talked out" even before his first real match in charge of Manchester United, the traditional Community Shield fixture against FA Cup winners Wigan at Wembley.

The 2-0 victory was routine, then the questions began once more for Moyes. They will take nine months to answer, no matter how often they are asked. WS

"It's my decision. We can't reach our objectives with these players"

Levski Sofia executive director Nasko Sirakov fires four of the team following Europa League elimination at the hands of Kazakh side Irtysh Pavlodar

OBITUARIES

Santos...the first Brazilian to play 100 times for his country

DJALMA SANTOS
(1929-2013)

One of Brazil's greatest right-backs, a World Cup winner in 1958 and 1962 who also played at the 1954 and 1966 finals, he died aged 84 after suffering from pneumonia.

The scorer of three goals for his country, he was the first player to reach 100 caps for Brazil and made the last of his 110 appearances in a 2-0 defeat of Uruguay in 1968. Five years earlier, in a match organised by FIFA to commemorate the English Football League's centenary, he had the distinction of being the only Brazilian to appear in a Rest of the World side that lost 2-1 to England at Wembley.

Djalma Santos was never sent off in his career. "I've always tried to lead a normal life," he said in 2010. "I always respected my opponents too, and the fans who came to watch. Thanks to God I went through my whole career without getting sent off. Why? Because there was respect and because I played fairly.

"Obviously, doors were opened to me as a result. I can't deny that. I'm able to do what I do today because of that time, when Brazil became world champions. The respect has lasted to this day and I feel nothing but gratitude for football."

He was one of only two players – along with Franz Beckenbauer – to be included in three World Cup All-Star teams (in 1954, 1958 and 1962).

Woosnam...pioneer of football in the USA

PHIL WOOSNAM
(1932-2013)

The ex-Wales international and former USA coach was commissioner of the North American Soccer League, from 1969 to 1982, during the height of its popularity when the New York Cosmos recruited Pele and a host of other global stars.

• *Appreciation, see Paul Gardner (right)*

ANTONI RAMALLETS
(1924-2013)

Won six La Liga titles, five Spanish Cups and two Inter-Cities Fairs Cups with Barcelona, and was also a five-times winner of the Zamora trophy – the prize awarded to the goalkeeper with the lowest goals-to-games ratio during the Spanish season.

SELCUK YULA
(1959-2013)

Former Turkey captain who scored 134 goals for Fenerbahce between 1979 and 1986 before becoming a TV pundit.

CHRISTIAN BENITEZ
(1986-2013)

The former Birmingham City and Ecuador striker died from heart failure, hours after making his debut for Qatari side El Jaish following a £10million move from Club America of Mexico.

BERT TRAUTMANN
(1923-2013)

Former German prisoner of war who settled in England and kept goal for Manchester City as they won the FA Cup in 1956, beating Birmingham City 3-1 in the Final. He played the last 17 minutes with what was later revealed to be a broken neck.

Trautmann...broke his neck during the 1956 FA Cup Final

OBITUARIES

Vincent...French legend

JEAN VINCENT
(1930-2013)

One of the central figures in French football's outstanding era of the 1950s, when he won four Ligue 1 titles, with Lille and Reims, and scored 22 goals in 46 games for France, died aged 82.

Vincent made his name as a young, speedy left-winger with the Lille team who won two cups and a league title in the mid-1950s. He was then sold to the Reims club, who joined the likes of Real Madrid and Milan in pioneering the revolutionary European Champions Cup.

Vincent, and outstanding inside-left partner Roger Piantoni, won three further league titles (in 1958, 1960 and 1962) and were European runners-up against Alfredo Di Stefano's Real Madrid in 1956 and 1959. In the latter Final, his late tackle on Raymond Kopa left his France team-mate an angry, limping passenger. Weeks later Kopa returned to Reims but, reportedly, barely ever spoke to Vincent.

Vincent was also a member of the France side that took third place at the 1958 World Cup finals in Sweden.

After retiring he built an equally successful career as a coach. He guided Nantes to two league titles and one cup, and took them to the semi-finals of the Cup-winners Cup in 1980. He went on to coach the national teams of Cameroon and Tunisia before retiring in 1987.

"We have lost a legend of French football," said Nantes in a statement announcing Vincent's death.

Keir Radnedge

Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

Remembering Woosnam, the maverick Welshman who shook up US soccer

To football purists, Phil Woosnam was guilty of selling out the game to American commercial interests. But the American businessmen who backed the North American Soccer League in the 1970s, were often bitterly critical of Woosnam, who they viewed as...a football purist. He was someone who kept raising football objections to their sales schemes aimed at popularising soccer in the United States.

Woosnam, who died recently at the age of 80, spent 14 years trying to maintain a balance between those vital opposites, in his job as commissioner of the NASL between 1969 and 1983.

A surprising job for an ex-footballer, but Woosnam was anything but conventional. A Welshman with a degree in physics, he didn't turn pro until, 26-years old, he was signed by West Ham United in 1958.

His biggest break with convention came in 1966 when he emigrated to the USA to join the new National Professional Soccer League. Woosnam knew this was a pirate league, not recognised by FIFA, and must also have been aware of what happened to England's star defender Neil Franklin, who had joined a similar league in Colombia in 1950 and who, on his return to England, found that no top club would sign him.

Did that not worry Woosnam? No, he told me at the time, "FIFA has no right to stop us; they will come around." The confidence was overwhelming, as was the enthusiasm and excitement that Woosnam poured into his new job as player/coach for the Atlanta Chiefs.

Just three years later, Woosnam ended his playing career and – with little experience for the job – became the man who was running the league. Not much of a league, for sure, as it had only five teams, down from 17 in 1968, and looked headed for quick oblivion. But Woosnam, along with another Brit – ex-Fleet Street journalist Clive Toye – somehow revived the corpse until it recovered to boast a roster of 24 teams in 1979.

Of course, FIFA had come around, and the league – famous for the swashbuckling New York Cosmos – was now legitimate. Woosnam, though, had new problems with FIFA. The American owners did not like the offside rule – it "killed the game" they moaned. So Woosnam came up with the 35-yard-line (a crossfield line at each end of the field, 35 yards from the goal line, that was where offside began, no longer at the halfway line). FIFA gave it the green light in 1973 (it could go ahead "as an experiment") and it lasted until 1981, when FIFA put and an end to it.

> Woosnam understood that the future of the modern game had to be based on a merger of football and commercial interests

It was pure Woosnam, an attempt to liven up the game, infused with soccer reasoning, backed up by the sort of geometrical stats to be expected from a physics graduate and, of course, by the usual Woosnam dynamism.

Ted Howard, the NASL's executive director, worked closely with Woosnam for many years and thought him "the most dedicated and determined enthusiast the sport has ever seen in North America. He just would not take no for an answer until he grew the league to a core of 18 teams."

It was that almost manic energy that enabled Woosnam to ignore the reality of disaster in 1969 and to become one of the most influential pioneers of soccer in the USA. More than that, Woosnam was one of the earliest football executives to understand that the future of the modern game had to be based on a merger of football and commercial interests.

The NASL collapsed in 1984, but by that time Woosnam's 1970s vision of football as an amalgam of sport and sponsors was fast becoming reality throughout the world. WS

"What do you think they're smoking over there at the Emirates?"

Liverpool owner John W Henry dismisses Arsenal's chances of signing Luis Suarez

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Appointments, sackings and loans

IN

Trezeguet...loan move to Newell's

EUROPE

Libertadores Cup winner **BERNARD** left Atletico Mineiro for Shakhtar Donetsk in the Ukraine for a reported fee of €25million, while **LUIZ GUSTAVO** left European champions Bayern Munich for Wolfsburg. For all the transfer-window moves go to *http://www.worldsoccer.com/features/transfers-summer-2013* or *bit.ly/15ZGQvf*

Former Besiktas and Fenerbahce boss **CHRISTOPH DAUM** replaced Hikmet Karaman as coach of Bursaspor following the Turkish side's 3-0 home defeat by Vojvodina of Serbia in the Europa League.

Munteanu...Krasnodar-bound

Romanian **DORINEL MUNTEANU** took charge of Russian side Kuban Krasnodar.

Bulgarian champions Ludogorets replaced coach Ivaylo Petev with **STOYCHO STOEV** following a 1-0 defeat by Lyubimets on the opening day of the new season. **STOYCHO MLADENOV**, who was sacked by CSKA Sofia in January, returned for a fourth spell in charge of the club. Lokomotiv Sofia replaced Emil Velev with **STEFAN GENOV** after they failed to win any of their first three league games.

SERGEI TASHUYEV replaced Yuriy Maksymov as coach of Metalurh Donetsk after a 1-0 loss to Chornomorets left the Ukrainian side with four points from their opening four league games.

SOUTH AMERICA

Former France and Juventus striker **DAVID TREZEGUET** joined this year's Argentinian Torneo Final winners Newell's Old Boys on a 12-month loan from River Plate. Former assistant **ALFREDO BERTI** replaced his boss as coach of Newell's after Gerardo Martino took charge of Barcelona in Spain.

Brazil international **JULIO BAPTISTA** left Malaga in Spain and returned home to join Cruzeiro.

Paraguay appointed **VICTOR GENES** as national coach. He has signed a deal to lead the side until the end of their World Cup qualifying campaign. Genes served as coach of Paraguay's team at the recent Under-20 World Cup in Turkey. He replaces Gerardo Pelusso, who stepped down in June following defeat to Ecuador.

Genes...leading Paraguay

Luxemburgo...looking to improve Fluminense's fortunes

Flu's new boss

Fluminense appointed **VANDERLEI LUXEMBURGO** as coach after last year's title winner Abel Braga was sacked following a run of five league defeats that left the Brazilian champions in the relegation zone.

CONCACAF

Goalkeeper **JAIME PENEDO**, who helped Panama reach the Final of the CONCACAF Gold Cup, joined Los Angeles Galaxy on a free from Municipal of Guatemala.

In the Mexican apertura, **RUBEN OMAR ROMANO** replaced Manuel Lapuente at Puebla

ASIA

Former Brazil star **ZICO** signed a two-year deal to coach Al Gharafa. Argentinian striker **LISANDRO LOPEZ** joined the Qatari side from Lyon for €7million.

JORVAN VIEIRA was named coach of Kuwait's national side. The Brazilian led Iraq to success in the 2007 Asian Cup.

VAGNER LOVE, who scored for defending champions CSKA Moscow in their opening game of the Russian Premier League season, joined Chinese side Shandong Luneng for €12m.

Holland midfielder **ORLANDO ENGELAAR**, 33, joined A-League side Melbourne Heart from PSV Eindhoven.

Lisandro...joining Zico in Qatar

"The current treasury situation falls short of our expectations"

Aurelio Martinez, the Valencia president, goes for the understatement of the century when talking of the club's €275million debt burden

OUT

EUROPE

Without a club since being released by Lazio at the end of last season, former France striker **LOUIS SAHA** retired at the age of 35.

TONI POLSTER's top-flight coaching debut lasted just three league games before he was sacked at Admira Wacker after he suffered three defeats at the start of the new Austrian season.

Former Rangers manager **WALTER SMITH** quit after less than three months as chairman of the club, who are now in the third tier of Scottish football.

Au revoir...Saha

CONCACAF

Cuba goalkeeper **ODELIN MOLINA** announced his retirement after his side were knocked out of the CONCACAF Gold Cup in the quarter-finals.

Digao...contract terminated

New York Red Bulls cancelled the contract of defender **DIGAO**, who is the younger brother of Real Madrid's Kaka.

ASIA

Omiya Ardija sacked coach **ZDENKO VERDENIK** after a run of five defeats saw them slip from first place to fourth.

SPAIN

Barcelona turn to Martino after illness forces Vilanova to step down

The Barcelona president Sandro Rosell didn't have a phone number for Gerardo "Tata" Martino. So, leaning on his contacts from his days with Nike, Rosell called Horacio Cartes. The new president of Paraguay, in a previous incarnation, was Libertad club president and director of Paraguay's national team. Martino had been coach of both, winning three league titles with Libertad and enjoying a fair share of international success.

But it is merit and not networking skills that secured Martino the job of replacing Tito Vilanova, who was forced to step down as Barcelona coach in July in order to undergo further treatment for cancer.

Yet rumours suggested that Rosell only acted after Lionel Messi's family gave their approval. Messi's father, Jorge, idolised Martino, who played over 500 games for Newell's Old Boys and was Marcelo Bielsa's captain in the glorious team from the early 1990s.

There is now the Gerardo Tata Martino Stand at Newell's ground in Rosario – a stadium that is named after the man who inspired Martino and a generation of coaches, Marcelo Bielsa.

However, for over a decade both were estranged from the club where they made their names. For 14 years up until 2008, the president – or dictator, as most fans put it – Eduardo Lopez ran the club, and he ran it into the ground. Bielsa flags were banned at the stadium and opponents to the regime were banned, beaten and even shot at.

While Lopez ruled at Newell's, Martino opted to build his reputation in Paraguay, first winning league titles and then taking the national team to the World Cup quarter-finals and the Final of the 2011 Copa America. His job was made a little easier by several foreign players whose paperwork to become nationalised Paraguayans was rushed through – and even Martino admitted getting to the Copa America Final was down to incredible luck.

Back to his roots

In 2011, with Lopez departed and the club on the verge of relegation, Newell's turned to Martino. Within two years, he had them on the verge of a treble.

Gabriel Heinze, Maxi Rodriguez and Nacho Scocco all rejected lucrative offers in Europe to join Martino's new project

Martino instilled a "*criollo*" version of the Barcelona model, based around respect and loyalty to the club's heritage, and moulded a passing, attacking and incisive team. Newell's fell short in the Inicial 2012, but went on to win the Final in 2013 as the highest scoring champions in nine years.

Although the Libertadores campaign stumbled at the semi-final stage and the Argentinian Cup run abruptly ended the week after securing the title, Martino's work was done. He announced he would leave Newell's in the close season.

He refused to comment on his future plans, but it soon emerged he would be heading to Barcelona as Vilanova's replacement.

Newell's fans gathered outside Martino's house in Rosario to wish him well, and no doubt beg him to return one day. Will they do the same in Barcelona once his time is up?

Joel Richards

Martino...Newell's icon

FACT FILE

Gerardo Martino

Age 50 (20.11.62)

Country Argentina

Playing career
Newell's Old Boys (three spells), Tenerife (Spa), Lanus

Coaching career
Platense, Instituto, Libertad (Par), Cerro Porteno (Par), Colon, Paraguay national side, Newell's Old Boys

Honours as a player
Argentinian league 1987-88, 1990-91, 1992

Honours as a coach
Paraguayan league 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, Argentinian League 2013

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

David Peace's eulogy does not portray the Bill Shankly I knew

There was once a famous French writer who, writing to a friend, said: "I am sorry this letter is so long but I haven't had time to make it shorter." Would that his editors have applied such logic to the 715 – count them, 715 – pages of David Peace's new tome, *Red or Dead*, the story (well, part of it) of Bill Shankly.

Peace is a much praised, versatile and, I suppose, experimental writer. He has won acclaim for his novels about crime in his native Yorkshire and, more recently, in Tokyo, where he has now made his home.

He has already written one book about football, *The Damned United*, chronicling Brian Clough's disastrous 44 days as manager of Leeds United. Not a book which convinced or appealed to me, though at least it was not as maddeningly stylised as this one, where repetition runs wild.

There was no doubting the originality of the Clough book, but I doubted its objectivity. Not least because one anecdote, in which I myself was centrally involved, was gratuitously distorted. At the end of a torrid game in Turin in the European Cup in 1974, where Juventus beat Clough's Derby County, Clough emerged from the dressing room to tell the waiting Italian journalists: "No cheating bastards will I talk to; I will not talk to any cheating bastards."

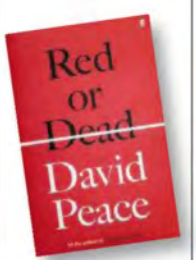
"*Cos'ha detto, cos'ha detto?* [what has he said]" the journalists demanded of me; to which I feigned diplomatic ignorance. Whereupon, the door opened again and Clough demanded: "Tell them what I said, Brian." Which I duly did, with the inevitable, explosive consequences. But in Peace's book, we just have the Italian phrase, correctly spelled, then Clough responding with an expletive which he never used.

Peace plainly likes Shankly, who is presented as a kind of folk hero, a good deal more than he ever liked Clough, but for those of us who knew Shankly over many years, the portrait is misleading.

Nor is the tale fully told. There is nothing about Shankly's impressive career as a Scottish international and Preston North End wing-half. Not a word either about the way Internazionale cheated Liverpool out of the European Cup semi-finals of 1965 when a corrupt Spanish referee, Ortiz De Mendibil gave Inter two illicit goals.

Anecdotes abound of Bill but you won't always find them here, not least when they might give a different dimension to his character.

> One anecdote [in the book], in which I myself was centrally involved, was gratuitously distorted



Peace story...*Red or Dead* by David Peace (Faber and Faber) is out now in hardback

"He can treat you like dirt," Alec Lindsay, the Liverpool left-back once told me. And it was well known that Shankly would refuse to speak to an injured player.

When managing Huddersfield Town, before his historic 15 years at Liverpool in which he transformed both team and club, there was once a significant incident after training.

Shankly told nine of his players to stay behind. "You five, white shirts!" he told them, giving them white jerseys. "You're England! You four and me, in blue, we're Scotland!" The game, with mini-goals, began. Mike O'Grady, a young outside-left who'd play for England, easily slipped past Shankly twice to score. He was just about to do it once more when Shankly snarled: "Do that again and I'll break your ****ing leg!"

In the Liverpool dressing room at Wembley after they had just lost the 1971 FA Cup Final to Arsenal, Emlyn Hughes approached him and said: "I'm sorry boss, I'm very, sorry boss. That last goal was down to me, I was knackered."

"That's all right Emlyn," Shankly said. "Everybody makes mistakes." As a relieved Hughes walked away, Shankly observed: "And that's the **** who lost us the Cup Final!"

No one really seems still to know just why Shankly resigned so prematurely. Peace suggests in a presumably imagined conversation between Bill and his wife that he was simply tired. It has also been suggested that he had unfounded financial worries. It was a sad conclusion to a remarkable career, and it would be Bob Paisley, not Bill, who would keep winning the European Cup.

"Am I jealous! You're damn right I'm jealous," said Bill. But it was he who'd laid the foundations.

Damned and loved...Clough (left) and Shankly lead out Leeds United and Liverpool respectively for the 1974 Charity Shield at Wembley

Doped...many of the West Germany team that won the 1954 World Cup Final had illicit injections before the game

Almost 60 years later, Germany's drugs shame is confirmed

Well, as if we didn't know. We knew for a long time about 1954, though only now are we told about 1966. About the West Germany teams being doped, that is to say. Now a formidable and shocking study by Berlin's Humboldt University makes it horrifyingly clear that for many years, dating from the 1940s, West German sport was as guilty as the notorious East Germans, with their drug-fuelled women swimmers and shot-putters, of the widespread and relentless use of drugs.

Yes, the scandal of 1954 and the way the West Germans, beaten 8-3 by the Hungarians earlier in the competition, has long been common currency. In fact, it was pretty well known at the time. There were tales of Ferenc Puskas, captain of the Hungary team beaten in the Final in Berne, going into the German dressing room after the match and finding the German players vomiting over the floor.

How highly significant it was that more than half that German team dropped out of football for months on end with jaundice. But in those remote days there were no such thing as post-match dope tests, and although the evidence was pretty plain, FIFA – what a surprise – did nothing to examine it. And so the Germans kept their ill-gotten title, having in that dramatic Final shown remarkable powers of stamina and recuperation.

Quite recently, a dressing-room attendant at that game revealed he had found syringes under the floorboards which simply seemed further evidence of what had so long been surmised. The Humboldt study also tells us that three unnamed members of the West Germany team which lost the 1966 World Cup Final at Wembley against England were found to have tested positively for the drug ephedrine.

It should, however, be noted that, by sharp contrast with 1954, there was no subsequent outbreak of jaundice among the 1966 German finalists who, if anything, seemed more exhausted – as Alf Ramsey pointed out to his men – than England's team at the end of the 90 minutes.

> In those remote days there were no such thing as post-match dope tests

Lambert and Wilshere offer some hope for England

And so it came to pass that Rickie Lambert made an astonishing debut for England against Scotland at Wembley. A splendid headed goal, a shot against a post, another low shot saved by the Scottish keeper Allan McGregor. There was some consolation in this memorable performance for Roy Hodgson, who put a brave face on his team's deficiencies.

Wembley long ago was termed "The Goalkeeper's Graveyard", and so it was again when the unpredictable Joe Hart abysmally let in James Morrison's hopeful shot. The other Scottish goal was hardly more reassuring, as Kenny Miller embarrassingly jinked away from Gary Cahill to beat Hart. How England missed Cahill's Chelsea team-mate John Terry, not to mention Rio Ferdinand, who have both retired from international football.

Forced substitutions, as manager Gordon Strachan complained, broke up the Scottish rhythm. I was especially disappointed to see James Forrest leave the pitch after an excellent and confident display on Scotland's right flank.

Wayne Rooney was inevitably not match fit though he did have a perfectly good goal disallowed. Jack Wilshere, limited to half a game, still looks the best, brightest and perhaps only England playmaker of quality.

It was a patchy, unconvincing and sporadic display by England, making qualification for Brazil – where, to give him his due, Hart excelled earlier this summer – increasingly uncertain. But with Wilshere up and running again, and Lambert such a surprising new force, hope more or less remains. **WS**

Old boy's own...Lambert heads England to a 3-2 victory over Scotland with his first touch of the game at Wembley

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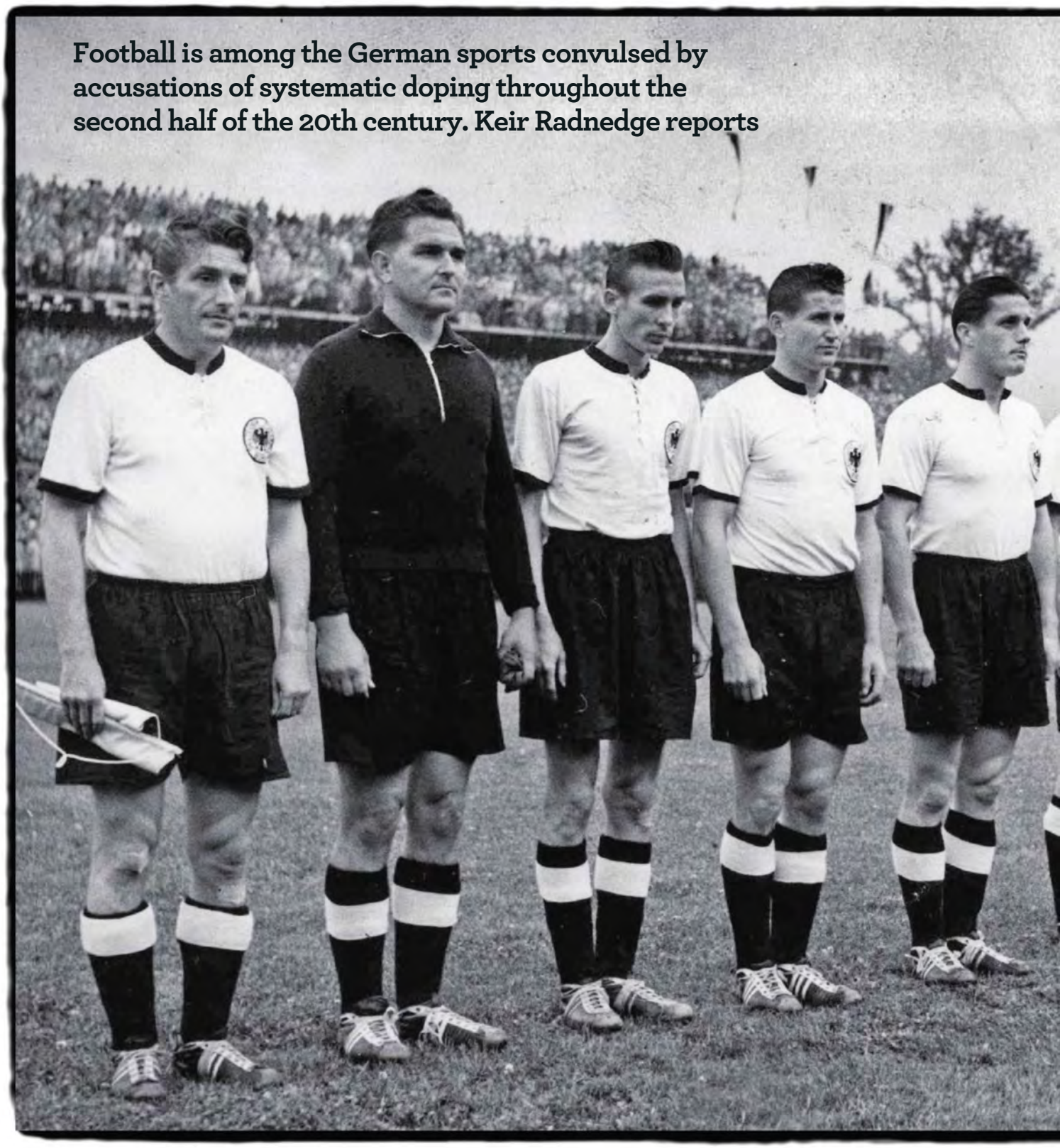
The shadow over

Football is among the German sports convulsed by accusations of systematic doping throughout the second half of the 20th century. Keir Radnedge reports



Doped...the West Germany team that upset Hungary in the 1954 World Cup Final in Berne

Berne and 1966

Franz Beckenbauer was eight years old when the "Miracle of Berne" took place. The boy who would become the only man to captain and coach World Cup-winning sides (in 1974 and 1990) and also organise a finals (2006) watched from his Munich home as Fritz Walter led West Germany to an unlikely 3-2 victory over Hungary at the Wankdorf Stadium in Switzerland.

The Hungarians, the "Mighty Magyars", were the undisputed masters of international football and favourites to win the 1954 World Cup. But West Germany's victory against the odds captivated a generation, helping to kick-start a golden era for football in a country still recovering from the ravages of war.

For years, rumours have circulated that the German team had used drugs ahead of the 1954 Final and West German teams reportedly refused to play any side containing Ferenc Puskas after Hungary's captain made allegations about doping in Berne. Real Madrid's 1960 European Cup Final against Eintracht Frankfurt only went ahead after Puskas apologised for his comments.

These rumours resurfaced two years ago when parts of an ongoing government report into doping within German sport were revealed. The report claimed that rather than being injected with "vitamin injections", the 1954 team were unwittingly administered Pervitin – a methamphetamine also known as "panzer chocolate" that was given to wartime pilots to keep them awake and battle ready for longer.

In August 2013, following another set of leaks, the German government was forced to release further details – but by no means all – of the 800-page study titled "Doping in Germany from 1950 to Today".

Systematic doping

The report, compiled by researchers at Berlin's Humboldt University, concluded that "systematic doping" had been going on in West Germany at least in the 1970s and 1980s, not to mention the decades both before and after. A swathe of senior politicians, administrators and athletes were implicated.

While football was by no means the only focus of the report, the use of doping by the 1954 team was confirmed, along with the revelation that, 12 years later, three members of the West Germany team which finished runners-up to England in the 1966 World Cup tested positive for ephedrine – the substance which betrayed Diego Maradona in 1994.

Beckenbauer, a junior member of the 1966 side, was swift to dismiss the allegations, saying: "No – and I was actually there. We didn't even know back in those days what doping was. We didn't even know the word.

"I would have known if something was being

given out. I might have been the youngest there but I wasn't naive."

Yet the Humboldt report also claims that the use of "panzer chocolate" continued through the 1960s, right up until the 1974 World Cup Final, won by West Germany on home soil in Munich.

The allegations made in the report – with possibly more to come if the full details are ever revealed – amount to the biggest example of doping at a World Cup finals. Yet FIFA insists that no "systematic doping culture" exists in today's football.

Keeping up with the cheats

No sport is free of doping and all sports live in fear of it. All Olympic events, including football, seek with varying degrees of success – and with varying degrees of concern – to combat the threat of drug use. But what chance do they stand when even executives of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) acknowledge that they are always running to try to keep up with the cheats, never ahead of them, never even level with them?

Football is no different. In the late 1930s Wolverhampton Wanderers players were given so-called "monkey gland" injections at the behest of their inventive manager Frank Buckley. The Football League carried out an investigation into the treatment, which supposedly "invigorated players", but ultimately declined to outlaw it.

As well as the allegations surrounding the West Germany national team, the 1950s also saw rumours of doping in Italian football, eventually culminating in a major scandal during the 1963-64 season when half the Bologna team were accused, banned and cleared of doping, all inside one month. It didn't stop them, however, from winning Serie A.

That marked the beginning of the end of the age of doping innocence as far as all sport, and not only football, was concerned. Up until then doping was generally considered to be naughty rather than a crime that seriously endangered sport's credibility.

FIFA introduced dope tests at the World Cup finals for the first time in 1966, but the shadow of doping has continued to flicker around football.

Italy's World Cup-winning team of 1982 – along with many top Serie A clubs – was reported to have been prescribed a synthetic copy of the human nutrient creatine. Five years later, the West Germany goalkeeper Harald "Toni" Schumacher was expelled from the national team and had his Adidas contract cancelled after claiming in an autobiography that doping was rife in the Bundesliga.

Under suspicion...the 1966 West Germany World Cup squad

In 1991, the world's most famous player, Diego Maradona, was banned from Italian football after testing positive for cocaine, amid reports he had been set up for "crossing" the Camorra crime organisation. Then, in 1994, most notoriously, Maradona was kicked out of the World Cup after failing a dope test for ephedrine following a 2-1 win over Nigeria in the group stage.

But while football has had some issues with doping, other sports – especially athletics and cycling – have experienced huge difficulties. In the 1970s, riches offered by new marketing contracts tempted more

Wembley, 1966...three members of the West Germany team that made the World Cup Final tested positive for ephedrine

and more sportsmen and women into becoming dope cheats.

And it was not only for financial gain. East Germany – more than any of their Iron Curtain allies – turned sports doping into a scientific weapon in the cause of Cold War propaganda. The German Democratic Republic collapsed, along with the Berlin Wall, in 1990, but seven of its athletes' track and field records still stand.

Occasionally the cheats were exposed. Ben Johnson tested positive for stanozolol after winning the 100m at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. An increasing number of cyclists were picked up in successive years at cycling's Tour de France. And, in 2003, Victor Conte's BALCO (Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative) sports drugs factory in California was exposed, along with clients such as Olympic champion sprinter Marion Jones and baseball superstar Barry Bonds.

As a consequence, increased testing, both in and out of competition, has been lobbied for and introduced by WADA.

Just as the drugs and their masking agents had become more complex so the tests became more sophisticated. Every now and again a footballer was picked up – though, increasingly, almost as often for recreational drugs as for stamina enhancers.

In 2006, speculation about doping within cycling and Spanish sport in general was confirmed sensationally when police raided the surgeries and offices of Eufemiano Fuentes. The so-called "Operacion Puerto" took a nonsensical seven years to come to trial but, by then, Fuentes had been exposed as the medical expert at the centre of cycling's blood-doping ring – which led, indirectly, to last year's exposure and downfall of seven-times Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong.

At Fuentes' trial, WADA was infuriated that the Spanish judge refused to permit an open-court view of a list of all his clients – including, it was suspected, several leading Spanish footballers.

Drawing a line

In 2006, German sport decided to reorganise its administration. The old national Olympic committee – which had been a power platform for the internationally respected Willi Daume, the man who persuaded the IOC to bring the summer Games to Munich in 1972 – was subsumed into a new federation, the Deutsche Olympische Sportbund (DOSB). The man selected to head Germany's new supreme sports authority was Thomas Bach, a former Olympic fencer and a lawyer for the Adidas sportswear firm.

Two years later, Bach's DOSB, in partnership with the Federal Institute of Sport Science (BISp) and under the auspices of the German interior ministry, commissioned a report from Humboldt University into sports doping in the former West Germany.

The idea was that the new Olympic sports federation could draw a line under whatever misdemeanours might have occurred in "the old days".

The Humboldt researchers found the challenge so daunting that they were forced to seek additional assistance from the University of Munster. With so many witnesses (officials, competitors, politicians) to interview the work took time; so much time that German sport forgot about it. Every now and again the odd tale would leak out – such as a doping shadow over the 1966 World Cup team – but it was swiftly written off as rumour.

By 2012 a draft report was ready, running to more than 800 pages, recording the study process, the interviews, the major incidences and the conclusions. The final version was then submitted to the office of German interior minister Hans-Peter Friedrich in April 2013.

And then, nothing. There was growing frustration among the research that the report remained hidden from public view, as if it had been buried.

Finally, a copy of the 2012 draft found its way into the hands of *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, a newspaper with a reputation for serious coverage of sports politics. On August 3, it went public with the report's most explosive revelations and, after two days of panic and turmoil, the ministry and the institute had no option but to publish a redacted version of the report, with all identification of individuals largely removed (and hence around 600 pages with it).

Tough choices

The Ministry was caught between a rock and hard place. Such a report demanded publication in the public interest, but the allegations against many individuals would inevitably have courted legal action in the spheres of libel and data protection.

Among the most sensational conclusions was that the programme had been run by the BISp itself – and with the approval of the interior ministry. Initially, they had launched a programme seeking to disprove the performance-enhancing qualities of anabolic steroids, testosterone and oestrogen. But when the converse became obvious, such substances started to be issued to competitors including athletes and rowers.

The extent was not comparable with what went on in East Germany, but it was serious and widespread enough. One witness told researchers of a conversation before the 1972 Munich Olympics when a senior sports ministry official said: "One thing matters above all else: medals."

Researchers complained that they

> "At the 1974 World Cup, the Germans gave infusions to their players. That was a shock for us"
> French sports doctor Jean-Marcel Ferret

Doping scandal unsettles Bach campaign to be IOC boss

Thomas Bach, the German National Olympic Committee (DOSB) chief responsible for commissioning the doping report, has been placed in a tricky position just weeks before he could become the next president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

As the president of the DOSB, Bach helped to initiate the investigation and he also urged the report's immediate publication following the expose by *Suddeutsche Zeitung*. However, the depth and breadth of the scandal has cast a shadow over his hopes of becoming the next IOC boss.

In many ways, Bach's career mirrors that of FIFA president Sepp Blatter. Just as Blatter was hired by FIFA at the behest of Adidas supremo Adi Dassler, so Bach was brought into Adidas by Dassler as a bright young lawyer.

Bach has been president of the DOSB since its creation in 2006 and a senior figure in the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He is a football fan and was a member of Germany's local organising committee for the 2006 World Cup.

Bach...looking to land the top job in world sport

had been denied access to the German football federation's archives, but this did not deter them from focusing on football. The report alludes to stimulants given to players in club football in the late 1940s, before West Germany re-entered international competition. Then it turns to the West German national team at the 1954, 1966 and 1974 World Cups.

Within months of their sensational 1954 World Cup Final victory over Hungary, many of the German players had been taken seriously ill; jaundice was the common diagnosis. According to the Humboldt report, most of the players had been dosed with Pervitin using the same shared needle and syringe. Only a minority, among them Alfred Pfaff – later captain of Eintracht Frankfurt's legendary 1960 European Cup finalists – refused the jabs.

The claim that three of the West German team that lost to England in the 1966 World Cup Final had tested positive for ephedrine is even more controversial – especially as no official report on doping was ever compiled or deemed worthy of submission to FIFA.

FIFA had actually issued its first anti-doping regulations just a few months before the 1966 tournament kicked off. These had been formulated on the lines of the principles agreed at an international medical and legal conference organised by the European Council at Strasbourg in September 1965. Team delegations were informed ahead of the finals of seven groups of prohibited substances. These included the amphetamine group which would have included ephedrine.

Strong denial...West Germany's 1974 World Cup-winning captain Beckenbauer

FIFA has said: "According to the official minutes of the World Cup Bureau 1966 held on February 25, 1967, in the 32 matches no player was found to have used doping substances."

However, three months earlier on November 29, 1966, Mihajlo Andrejevic, head of FIFA's medical sub-committee had written to Max Danz, president of the German athletics federation (DLV) saying that tests on three German players had shown faint traces of the stimulant ephedrine. This was detected by simple urine checks which were the only form of dope testing in the early, naive days of sport's war on cheating.

> "We can interview the players...but I can't imagine an honest sportsman like Uwe Seeler had anything to do with doping"
> DFL president, Reinhard Rauball

The three Germans must have been picked up after at least two or more matches since FIFA's dope-test rules involved choosing only two players of each side at random after a match.

So why weren't these "positive" tests officially reported?

Certainly Danz, judging from his own career record, would not have been tempted to take the issue any further. In 1968 the president of the DLV excused accusations of steroid use by West German athletes at the Mexico Olympics on the grounds that such substances were just minor, harmless stimulants.

Andrejevic, on the other hand, was a widely respected FIFA veteran who had been present at every World Cup since its debut in 1930. A former general secretary and president of the Yugoslav federation, he was also a highly qualified medical specialist and is considered to have been one of the first senior sports officials to sense the dangers of doping.

The obvious conclusion is that Andrejevic's own insight persuaded him that the dosages were not significant enough to indicate deliberate doping and suggested the source might have been an over-the-counter cold cure.

Hence the issue was not noted by the FIFA medical sub-committee – and any suggestions of deliberate doping have been vehemently denied by 1966 stars such as Beckenbauer, Uwe Seller and Wolfgang Overath.

Seeler, captain of the 1966 team and one of Germany's most respected players, has said of the claims: "I knew nothing about any doping. I never took any substances and I don't know of any player who did. We worked hard, we ran hard and never needed anything extra.

"If these claims are serious then people should name names."

Beckenbauer, now as captain, and Overath were both still there when West Germany won the World Cup against Holland eight years later in 1974 – another tournament at which the Humboldt report says "panzer chocolate" was used. Researchers were told by a French team doctor that he understood such a substance had been given to some members of the West German squad.

Overath says: "It's absurd to throw around such sweeping accusations. For my part, I can only say that I had nothing to do with doping."

Clamping down

But doping in football undoubtedly did, and still does, exist – with players under increasing pressure to seek any advantage they can find.

FIFA banned Peru midfielder Joel Sanchez for two years in March after he tested positive for a banned stimulant following a World Cup qualifier in Bolivia last October; a member of the Tahiti squad thrashed 8-0 by Uruguay at the Confederations Cup in Brazil has been suspended provisionally after failing a dope test; so has a Jamaican who tested positive after a World Cup qualifier in Honduras in June.

Elsewhere, a French senate inquiry has raised questions about dope testing at the 1998 World Cup, while FIFA have run the rule over Turkish football after a swathe of doping cases among other sports in the country.

Back in Germany, Bach, now a candidate for the presidency of the International Olympic Committee, has wasted little time in praising the authorities for working so diligently in helping to lay to rest the ghosts of the country's doping history. In Switzerland, Blatter's FIFA has expressed confidence that no "systematic doping culture" exists in football.

Only time – and more leaks – will tell if Blatter and Bach got it right. WS

And what about 1982?

Goal...Paolo Rossi puts Italy ahead in the 1982 Final

While the Humboldt report focuses on doping within German sport in the 1960s and 1970s, there is no mention of the West Germany side which lost to Italy in the 1982 World Cup Final.

The German team arrived in Spain accompanied by stories that they were using a newly developed drink called MS-61, which contained ginseng and "biocatalysts" and which was supposed to help ward off any fatigue.

Ironically, it was the Germans who looked tired in the Final, going on to lose 3-1 to Italy in Madrid.

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TIM VICKERY
in Rio de Janeiro

Atletico triumph in Libertadores

Cuca's side come from behind to win Final on penalties

Without a major title since they won the Brazilian championship in 1971, Atletico Mineiro, and their coach Cuca – who had consistently produced attractive sides only to miss out on the serious silverware – have finally laid all their hoodoos to rest. On a pulsating night of tension in Belo Horizonte, Cuca's side overcame Olimpia of Paraguay on penalties to win the Libertadores Cup.

Atletico had been the standout side of the group phase, their game based on the passing range and capacity for the unexpected of a revitalised Ronaldinho. With Bernard and Diego Tardelli supplying pace and guile from the flanks, and centre-forward Jo providing penalty-area presence, there was hardly a defence that could cope with them.

But then, in the knockout rounds, Atletico appeared to lose their way.

An injury to central midfielder Leandro Donizete, whose no-frills distribution knitted the team together, was a big blow. Without him, they relied too often on the long ball. This coincided with Ronaldinho going off the boil – the pause for the Confederations Cup perhaps having an effect on his fitness. And then there was the tension and pressure that was piled on as the stakes kept rising. In round after round Atletico fought their way through by the narrowest of margins – and the Final was no exception.

Balancing the books

In financial terms, the showdown should have been a walkover as Olimpia's entire wage bill would not even come close to paying for Ronaldinho. The Paraguayan club was mired in financial crisis – at one stage going nine months without paying its players. During the Confederations Cup pause, captain Richard Ortiz was even sold to Mexican side Toluca in a bid to balance the books.

But if Atletico had all the money, Olimpia at least had the tradition. This was the first Final for the Brazilian side, while their opponents had three titles to their name – and the quest for a fourth inspired a fairly limited squad to punch well above its weight.

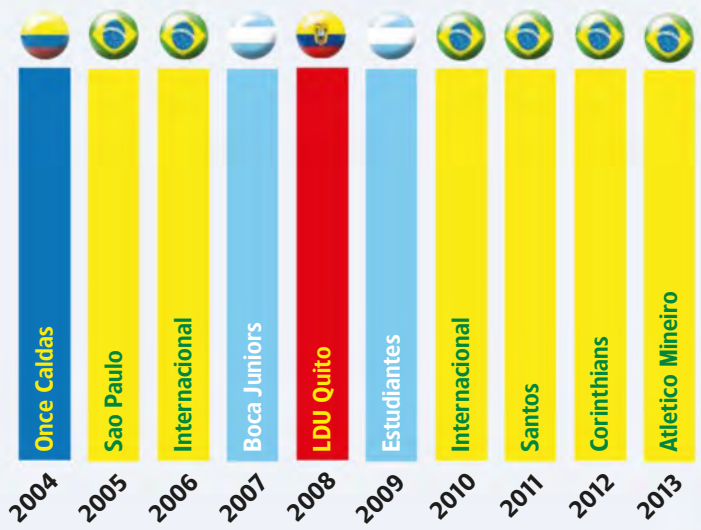
Olimpia's tradition was symbolised by their coach, Ever Almeida, the club's former goalkeeper and a Libertadores legend. At the start of the competition few gave his team a chance, and fellow Paraguayan sides Libertad and Cerro Porteno looked far better bets. But Almeida fashioned a side capable of dogged defence and dangerous breaks.

Clever Uruguayan support striker Juan Manuel Salgueiro looked for holes to be exploited by rangy striker Fredy Bareiro and blunderbuss Argentinian centre-forward Juan Carlos Ferreyra, who was often introduced as a sub at

Joy...Atletico skipper Rever sparks mass celebrations as he lifts the Libertadores Cup

BRAZIL'S SOUTH AMERICAN DOMINANCE

Libertadores Cup winners 2004-13



half-time. Olimpia always seemed to have a goal in them when it was needed.

In the home leg of the Final in Asuncion, that goal came from their secret weapon, Uruguayan utility man Alejandro Silva, who crashed through the defence to open the scoring with a left-footed shot in off the post. However, he was booked for taking his shirt off in celebration and would therefore be banned for the second leg.

Atletico, without the suspended Bernard, were caught between two stools and their usual 4-2-3-1 had been traded for a 4-3-1-2. Pushed forward, Tardelli's speed caused occasional problems, but the team neither attacked nor defended with conviction. To make matters worse, Ronaldinho could not put a foot right and was withdrawn early in the second half.

Olimpia doubled their lead with the final kick of the first game. Wilson Pittoni dinked a free-kick from the edge of the box which caused Atletico's Alecsandro to back pedal from the wall and get in the way of goalkeeper Victor – leaving the ball to dip in below the crossbar. In a further blow, Atletico defender Richarlyson had been sent off minutes earlier for a second bookable offence, which would keep him out of the return.

With Olimpia two up and Atletico two down going in to the second leg, both sides were in exactly the same position they had been in after the first legs of their respective semi-finals. The Paraguayans had beaten Santa Fe of Colombia after changing the game with the half-time introductions of Ferreyra and Alejandro Silva. Santa Fe showed off their patient possession game in the return, but keeper Martin Silva and the woodwork kept them down to a 1-0 win.

> "This club has more than eight million supporters and had never won an important title before. This is a huge triumph for this club"
>
> Atletico Mineiro coach Cuca

Atletico, meanwhile, came up with another disappointing away performance, against Argentina's Newell's Old Boys, who were deserved winners with goals from Maxi Rodriguez and a wonderful Ignacio Scocco free-kick.

In the return against Newell's in Belo Horizonte, it took Atletico less than two minutes to pull one back, Ronaldinho slipping the ball through for a Bernard burst. But further chances were few and far between and an equaliser looked less and less likely.

Cuca admitted afterwards that he was helped by the late partial floodlight failure that held up play for 10 minutes and he used his thinking time to bring on Guilherme, who levelled the tie with six minutes left. In the penalty shoot-out, four consecutive kicks were missed before Ronaldinho stopped the rot. Victor then saved from Rodriguez and

Star...Ronaldinho is embraced by coach Cuca

Atletico were in the Final.

There was no early goal to ease the nerves in the second leg of the Final. Atletico had wanted to stage the match at the recently reopened Estadio Independencia, but the 23,000 capacity was not considered enough by CONMEBOL, who ordered them to use the newly refurbished World Cup venue, the Mineirao.

> "I came back to Brazil for this"
>
> Ronaldinho on his first Libertadores winners' medal

For all Atletico's attempts to take the initiative, Olimpia had the better first-half chances. Twice the visitors were clean through, with Salgueiro slipping Bareiro and then Alejandro Silva bursting across the defence, but Victor made the save both times.

The breakthrough came just after the break when Olimpia made a rare defensive blunder. A slip from Pittoni turned an innocuous ball from the right into a chance for the tournament's top scorer, Jo, who swivelled to score his seventh goal of the campaign.

The Paraguayans now offered little threat and Alejandro Silva and Salgueiro were withdrawn as Olimpia sought to hang on. They did have a great chance, however, when Pittoni's ball caught out Atletico captain and centre-back Rever. Ferreyra, once again brought on at half-time, poked the ball past the advancing Victor. But, with the goal gaping, the sub fell over and the chance was gone.

The next Atletico attack was halted by a bodycheck from Olimpia defender Julio Manzur, earning him a second yellow card. And two minutes later his presence at the far post was badly missed as Bernard curled in a cross from the right. As time seemed to stand still, big centre-back Leonardo Silva's looped header back across the goal dropped just inside the post. Atletico had saved themselves once more.

Penalty prize

Atletico started quickly in extra-time. Rever's header from a corner came back off the bar and Olimpia's Martin Silva pulled off save after save. Even when he was beaten shots were cleared off the line. In a rare Olimpia attack, Pittoni had a free-kick deflected just wide.

And so once more, Atletico had a chance to redeem themselves in a penalty shoot-out. Olimpia's penalty specialist Herminio Miranda had the first kick saved and then four Brazilians placed their shots inside Martin Silva's right-hand post. When Matias Gimenez leant back and hit the angle, there was no need for Ronaldinho to take Atletico's last penalty. Atletico and Cuca had succeeded at last. **WS**

Final equaliser...Atletico's Leonardo Silva loops his header over Martin Silva to level the scores

THE RISING COST OF BRAZILIAN FOOTBALL

Paying the price... Atletico fans at the Libertadores Final

The Libertadores Cup was won by a Brazilian side for the fourth consecutive year. But given the financial advantage Brazilian clubs now enjoy over the rest of the continent, it could be argued that the country is underperforming. After all, were it not for Victor's stoppage-time penalty save against Tijuana of Mexico, Brazilian interest in the competition would have ended at the quarter-finals.

The second leg of the Final threw up a powerful example of Brazil's financial force. The Atletico-Olimpia match in Belo Horizonte took almost £5million at the box office, which is an astonishing sum – beyond the wildest dreams of clubs elsewhere on the continent.

It means that the average ticket price was around £75. Yet while that may be considered acceptable for such a special occasion – this was the biggest game in Atletico's history – as more of the new 2014 World Cup stadiums come into regular use it is clear that Brazilian football faces a dilemma about pricing.

In Rio de Janeiro in late July, the newly reopened Maracana played host to a local derby between Flamengo and Botafogo. The cheapest ticket on general sale (club members and students pay half price) was just below the £30 mark. But the match did not come close to selling out, with take up especially poor for the most expensive seats at the side. This had a negative effect on the atmosphere and, moreover, did not look good on the television images.

Outside the ground supporters of both clubs joined in a protest that was witty, creative, intelligent and timely. They dressed up in the tuxedos, top hats and monocles of the aristocracy in order to make the point that such a ticket policy was inevitably pricing the masses out of Brazil's mass entertainment.

Both the Mineirao and the Maracana are run by private consortia – in itself a cause of protest. But it seems increasingly clear that, after spending so much money to build the World Cup stadiums, the government will find some way to get involved to ensure that cheaper tickets are available.

One of FIFA's arguments for awarding the 2014 World Cup to Brazil was the need to raise average crowds in the country – which is not going to happen with ticket prices beyond the reach of the majority.

MARTIN DEL PALACIO LANGER
in Mexico City

Tough year for *El Tri*

From Olympic glory to World Cup jitters and Gold Cup disaster

As Mexico saw in the New Year, confidence in the country's national football teams could not have been higher. Jose Manuel de la Torre's senior side had breezed through the first phase of CONCACAF World Cup qualifying with a 100 per cent record, the under-23s had won Olympic gold at London 2012 and sights were being set on victory at the forthcoming Confederations Cup.

But fast forward six months and the picture now looks completely different for *"El Tri"* and the under-fire De la Torre.

This year has turned out to be one of the worst in the history of Mexico's national team. It all started to go wrong back in February with a goalless draw against Jamaica at the Estadio Azteca in a World Cup qualifier; a game which the visitors – who only picked up one further point in the entire competition – deserved to win. From thereon in free-fall ensued. Mexico won only one of their remaining five qualifiers and their ticket to Brazil is now at serious risk.

Some of the results in qualifying can be attributed to bad luck – Honduras equalised late on when Jerry Bengtson followed up after his controversial penalty had been saved by Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa. But in general De la Torre's team have been boring, predictable and uninspired.

That has been especially true when playing at the Azteca, where Mexico have not scored a single goal in the latest round of qualifiers. Visiting teams simply park the bus, leaving home players seemingly paralysed by the pressure in front of a desperate public who boo them at the first setback.

Going wrong...De la Torre looks for answers during Mexico's shock draw at home to Jamaica

Lack of enterprise

The team's weak performances have not been limited just to the CONCACAF qualifiers. The Confederations Cup is taken very seriously in Mexico and the team's elimination in the first round this summer was poorly received by the fans. Although results followed the form book – defeats to Italy and Brazil, victory over Japan – the general perception was that the team had abandoned its usual attacking and enterprising style, replacing it instead with a fearful, defensive focus.

The situation reached boiling point in July's CONCACAF Gold Cup, a regional tournament that Mexico have won six times, including the last two. De la Torre, commonly known as "Chepo" decided to rest his usual starters and opted for a squad that included several 2012 Olympic champions.

The outcome was a disaster. Mexico lost in a group game to Panama – a team they had never previously been beaten by – and then to the same team in the semi-finals, after which the crowd sang "Fuera Chepo" [Chepo out].

The media echoed the protest with the front page of the biggest sport newspaper, *Record*, stating: "Chepo, in which language do you want us to tell you? Resign!" The main journalists on TV channels, the Internet and social-media sites were already speculating about possible successors, with Argentinian coach Marcelo Bielsa, along with local names Tomas Boy and Miguel Herrera, heading the potential candidates.

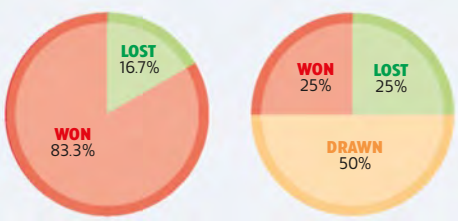
But the Mexican FA had other plans. Just days later, despite all the popular unrest, they confirmed that De la Torre would remain in charge for the crucial World Cup qualifiers against Honduras and the USA in September.

Realistically, if Mexico are to make it to Brazil 2014 they need to win that Honduras game and then beat Panama in October. Both matches will be played at the Azteca, and in previous campaigns these would have been classed as home bankers.

Roared on by 100,000 passionate fans, *El Tri* have only lost one of more than 50 previous home World Cup qualifiers. But, given Mexico's recent form, the fans could turn on them if they fail to score early on. Chepo and his charges must hope the Azteca crowd remain behind them as they seek to take their place in next year's finals. WS

MEXICO'S SLUMP THIS YEAR

Matches played by the national team



Total matches 12 **Total matches 16***

(* up to and including 12.08.13)

SID LOWE
in Madrid

Debts force player exodus

Other than a handful of big deals, Spanish football is in crisis

As July rolled into August, one man dominated the news in Madrid and, so it seemed, virtually all of Spain. Gareth Bale was everywhere. TV news bulletins followed his every move and the country's biggest-selling newspaper, *Marca*, led with him for seven of the last nine days of the month. Over in Barcelona, they were talking about him too, although the man that most excited them was their new signing Neymar.

The Brazilian had been bought for €58million, while the Welshman, they said, might cost as much as €100m. And nor was Bale alone, with Isco and Asier Illarramendi already signed by Real Madrid for a combined total of over €60m. Another summer, another splash.

The battle between the big two is set to be huge once again, with the roll call of talent at their disposal barely believable. No wonder everyone was excited. Well, not quite everyone.

Beyond the bombastic headlines, another story was unfolding, one that was far more worrying. For all that two of the world's best players were heading to Spain, this was the summer of exodus from La Liga. Everywhere you turned, players were moving abroad.

Colombian striker Radamel Falcao left Atletico Madrid for Monaco, meaning that La Liga had lost last season's third top scorer, while Argentinian hit man Gonzalo Higuain joined Napoli from Real Madrid. Perhaps, as non-Spaniards they could be expected to move around, but Spaniards were going too – and in their droves. By the time the Confederations Cup Final came round, the Spain squad included nine players who were at foreign clubs, with Roberto Soldaldo joining the exiles shortly afterwards.

And it is not just the big players who were moving on, the Spanish diaspora was repeated at virtually every level and every destination. Among Spaniards' new homes were Italy, Germany, Greece, Belgium, Israel and Holland. There are also Spanish players in Russia, Portugal and Cyprus. But the one that stands out above the rest is England, where there were 32 Spaniards in the Premier League at the last count.

Heading for the Premier League

Jesus Navas and Alvaro Negredo at Manchester City, along with Soldado at Tottenham Hotspur, were the ones getting all the headlines, but others were making the same journey. Jose Campana at Crystal Palace, Antonio Luna at Aston Villa, Adrian at West Ham United, Marc Muniesa at Stoke City, and Alejandro Pozuelo, Jose Canas and Jordi Amat at Swansea City.

The success of Michu last season made it logical that Swansea should return to the Spanish market. It made it logical for others to follow suit, too.

The mechanics of the move made it worrying for Spanish clubs. Swansea manager Michael Laudrup had expressed his surprise that no one in Spain had moved to sign Michu when he was a Rayo Vallecano player. The reality was that few felt they could afford to. Yet Michu only cost €3m – and what is the 27-year-old striker worth now? Five, six, maybe seven times what he had been signed for?

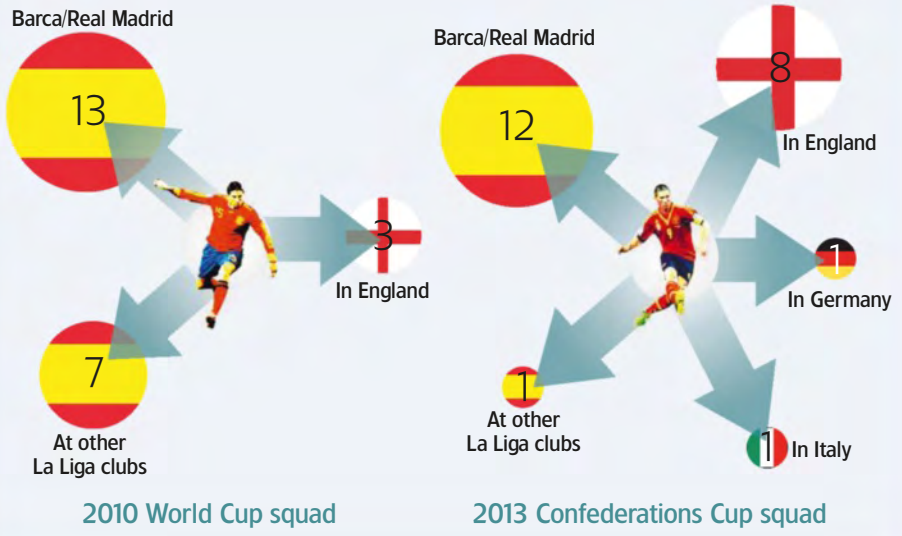
This summer, Celta Vigo striker Iago Aspas signed for Liverpool. He had been in line for a move to Valencia, until they decided that they could not afford the €10m release clause.

Valencia's financial crisis is well documented; they are the club with two stadiums: one they can't sell and one they can't afford to finish building. David Villa, David Silva and Juan Mata have all long gone and Soldado followed them out of the exit this summer. Meanwhile,

Exodus...Pozuelo is the latest Spanish player to join Swansea in the Premier League

SPAIN'S TOP PLAYERS ARE LEAVING LA LIGA'S ALSO-RANS

Where the Spanish squad play their club football



> "When people ask what clubs could go out of existence, I reply only three – Barcelona, Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao – are not in some kind of danger"
> *Spanish football economist Jose Maria Gay de Liebana*

Malaga's big-money project is also being dismantled.

That Spanish players left for England, Italy or Germany in search of bigger opportunities and bigger wages might not be cause for concern, but the fact that they also headed for Belgium or Bulgaria is a different issue. The bottom line is simple: Spanish football, like Spain in general, is in crisis.

Players are seeking stability and decent wages, but clubs cannot afford to keep them. This season, budgets have been cut by an average of around 15 per cent. TV revenue is low, with both the country's major operators admitting that subscriptions are plummeting, and stadiums are not filling. It is not a new phenomenon: between the first and second division, 24 clubs are, or have been, in administration. Deportivo La Coruna, league champions a little over a decade ago, narrowly avoided going out of business this summer. Each season, clubs are paying a combined €120m just to cover the interest on their debts.

Getting serious

Administration was often a way of wiping out debts without a sporting penalty – and at one level it still is – but the landscape has changed. Of a total debt estimated at €4billion, Spanish clubs owed €752m to the Inland Revenue a year ago. That figure has come down to a little over €660m – which reveals one thing: the state is getting serious.

And so are the clubs, who are now being forced to balance their books.

"We could give away money like we used to so that no one turns the lights out on the party," said the secretary of state for sport, Miguel Cardenal. "Or we could take this seriously.

"We're not letting them get away with anything [now] and the clubs are understanding that. We cannot stretch this out any further."

The footballing cost is clear – and that means selling players and stripping down their costs. It also means that, bar the tiny handful of clubs who can continue to spend, the exodus from Spain will continue.

"Footballers are going," Cardenal says. "And they should go." **WS**

Soldado...quit debt-ridden Valencia for Spurs

MEHMET DEMIRCAN
in Istanbul

Istanbul's Big Two are favourites again

Galatasaray and Fenerbahce look set to dominate once more

Leadership...Drogba (left) and Sneijder can be relied upon to show Galatasaray the way this season

There were some exciting arrivals during the close season, with Ryan Babel (Kasimpasa), Sebastian Frey (Bursaspor), Cicinho (Sivasspor) and Florent Malouda (Trabzonspor) all signing up to play in the Super Lig. But despite the impressive newcomers, it is all about Galatasaray and Fenerbahce again.

Gala coach Fatih Terim has bought in just two new faces so far – Cameroon defender Aurelien Chedjou from Lille for €6.3million and midfielder Erman Kilic from Sivasspor – although Felipe Melo of Juventus and Umut Bulut of Toulouse made last season's loans permanent.

There are new rules in place this term which limit sides to 10 foreigners on their books and no more than six playing at once. But while this caused some pre-season headaches for the defending champions, all was briefly forgotten as Gala won the Emirates Cup in London, with imports Didier Drogba and Wesley Sneijder in fine form.

A goal from Drogba saw Galatasaray retain the Turkish Super Cup with a 1-0 win againt Fenerbahce.

Newcomer...Fener's Portuguese centre-half Alves

Summer distractions

Fener had their own distractions in the summer. Banned from Europe for two years due to match-fixing allegations, they took their case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the suspension was lifted temporarily. This meant they took their place in the third qualifying round of the Champions League, where they beat Salzburg of Austria 4-2 on aggregate, without knowing if they would be eligible for the group stage should they progress any further.

Such upheaval has made it difficult for new coach Ersun Yanal to plan for the forthcoming campaign, but he has brought in defenders Bruno Alves from Zenit for €6.3m and Michal Kadlec from Bayer Leverkusen for €4.3m. Nigeria striker Emmanuel Emenike also rejoined the club, returning from Spartak Moscow for €13million after he left two years ago without playing a single game.

Besiktas, who are in a similar situation to Fenerbahce in the Europa League, will be sharing Kasimpasa's Recep Tayyip Erdogan Stadium in Istanbul for the next two years while their own Inonu Stadium undergoes reconstruction. They have a new coach in Slaven Bilic and, despite financial problems, the Croat has recruited Canada midfielder Atiba Hutchinson from PSV, goalkeeper Tolga Zengin from Trabzonspor and Colombian defender Pedro Franco from Millonarios.

One team to watch out for could be Trabzonspor after new boss Mustafa Akcay bought in France international Malouda and Portugal full-back Jose Bosingwa. The pair signed up in front of 10,000 supporters, with the club's newly elected club president Ibrahim Haciosmanoglu announcing: "People said the stars won't be willing to come to Trabzon. Here are the stars; our present to the city of Trabzonspor." **WS**

TURKISH SUPER LIG CLUBS 2013-14

1	Akhisar Belediyespor
2	Antalyaspor
3	Besiktas
	Fenerbahce
	Galatasaray
	Kasimpasa
4	Bursaspor
5	Caykur Rizespor
6	Elazigspor
7	Eskisehirspor
8	Gaziantepspor
9	Genclerbirligi
10	Karabukspor
11	Kayseri Erciyesspor
	Kayserispor
12	Konyaspor
13	Sivasspor
14	Trabzonspor

NICK BIDWELL
in Munich

Critics take a pop at Pep

New Bayern boss gets off to a less-than-impressive start

A new coach knows he has a tough job – if not an impossible one – when his honeymoon period comes to a shuddering halt before the end of pre-season. Just ask Bayern Munich's Pep Guardiola, who went from Messiah to meddler in a very short space of time.

For his first few weeks in the Allianz Arena hot seat, Guardiola's treatment by the media was akin to that of a VIP guest at a swanky hotel; fawned over for his success with Barcelona, his avant-garde ideas, his charisma and his obvious efforts to get to grips with the German language. However, bit by bit, the tidal wave of reverence for the Catalan boss reduced to a trickle; a proposal for sainthood being replaced by a hard-nosed focus on his so-called shortcomings and on his suitability for keeping last term's European and German champions on the up and up.

Top of the list of accusations levelled against Guardiola is his side's apparent lack of defensive organisation. In both the 4-2 loss to Borussia Dortmund in the German Super Cup and a 5-0 German Cup victory over the amateurs of Rehden, Bayern were alarmingly vulnerable to the counter-attack. According to the critics, the Guardiola philosophy was entirely to blame. It was said that his switch from two holding midfielders to one, and the insistence on the full-backs constantly going forward, resulted in too much pressure on the central defenders to win their duels (see *Tactics*, page 74).

Rather than accepting that it will take time for Bayern's players to become word-perfect in Guardiola's language, many in the German media seem to think the problem is the new coach's system itself. As Juan Moreno in *Der Spiegel* put it: "Pep Guardiola is turning the most successful team in the history of Bayern Munich on its head.

"Club directors love the enthusiasm of their new coach but worry whether it will all turn out well."

A widespread view of Guardiola's tactics is not only are they too cavalier but they are also too complicated. The over-elaborate approach of former Bayern coach Louis Van Gaal played a key part in his sacking in 2011, and it's feared that Guardiola may be going down the same rocky road.

Over the next few months, Guardiola will be performing his own personal high-wire act as he tries to find the right balance between his fresh ideas and the all-conquering blueprint of his predecessor, Jupp Heynckes.

These will also be interesting times for Bayern midfield standard-bearer, Bastian Schweinsteiger. Following the club's recruitment this summer of Barcelona schemer Thiago Alcantara, some believe "Schweini" could be in danger of losing his place in the side. It must therefore have come as quite a boost to the *Nationalmannschaft* mainstay to have recently been voted Germany's player of the year.

The 28-year-old's election was not merely in recognition of his fundamental role in Bayern's historic triple last season or his stellar work as the side's back-line screener and creative hub. The award was just recompense for his career as a whole; the journey from wilful and wild youth-team product to responsible pro team leader.

"In my time in football I've had setbacks, but was brought up never to give up and always try to fight on," he told *Kicker* magazine. Typical Schweinsteiger and a clear shot across the bows of Alcantara.

Short honeymoon...Guardiola is already attracting criticism at Bayern

Goal-line controversy

Despite Hoffenheim striker Kevin Volland being denied a perfectly valid goal in a 2-2 draw with Nuremberg on the opening day of the new season, the German football authorities remain determined not to rush headlong into the arms of goal-line technology.

Volland thought he had put his side 2-0 up with a neat chip, only for the officials to miss the ball crossing the line and then spinning back out again. Referee Thorsten Kinhofer acknowledged the mistake after consulting TV replays at half-time, but the German Football League (DFL) has no intention of speeding up its plans for the use of microchip and video, arguing that it needs at least two more years of extensive tests.

"As far as we're concerned there's still no perfectly functioning system," declared DFL managing director Andreas Rettig. "FIFA's accepted margin of error is simply too big for us." WS

ITALY

PADDY AGNEW
in Rome

Inter seeking financial boost from Asia

Massimo Moratti is negotiating the revolutionary sale of his club to an Indonesian tycoon

For a large part of this summer, one football story held more sway in Italy than any other. Namely, the revelation that millionaire Massimo Moratti might sell a 65-70 per cent shareholding in Internazionale to Indonesian tycoon Erik Thohir for around €350million.

In the wake of the Di Benedetto-Palotta US group takeover of Roma two years ago, it is clear that even in stuffy, old, conservative Serie A the times they are a-changing.

It was Inter owner Moratti, a man who is estimated to have spent €1.5billion on the club over the last 18 years, who spelt it out loud and clear in an interview with sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*. Responding to remarks made by Ernesto Pellegrini, his predecessor at Inter who had bemoaned the fact that "the club of my heart is going to end up in the hands of a foreigner", Moratti delivered a brilliant analysis of modern Italian football in his typically elegant way.

"Look, for years Italian football – and I accept my own responsibility for this – has been winning internationally on the pitch," he explained. "But financially, economically, it has been playing a domestic home game and it has lost.

"Our football has survived on TV rights and the odd big market transfer. Obviously, those issues are important since they give the fans a sense of identity and cohesion, and the fans are a club's first patrimony. But today we find ourselves incapable of generating worldwide interest with our rundown stadia and without a winning format.

"We need to create a solid foreign market – and that is a long, difficult and expensive operation. By bringing on board an Asian partner you bring that fundamental market right into the club. That will force us to change managerial direction and old habits, and it will open us up to the world and to new resources."

Future prospects

Inside the Inter camp, people point out that the potential sale of the club is a matter that has been handled almost exclusively by Moratti himself. It has been very much his decision, and one based not so much on the club's current financial situation – more on how he views its future prospects.

Moratti says he is not worried by the fact that, for example, the club has lost €86m and €77m respectively in the last two years. In the past, as the club's main shareholder, he has picked up the major part of this tab, thanks obviously to the Moratti family wealth generated by the Saras oil refinery business.

The losses are also covered by other Inter shareholders such as tyre giant Pirelli, whose 2012 balance sheet records a €6.7m loss for the company's involvement in the football club.

Curiously, it seems to have been the magical year of 2010 which prompted Moratti's desire to change direction and look for fresh financial input. Looking back on a season which saw Inter win the Champions League, the Serie A title, the Club World Cup and the Italian Cup, Moratti now describes that year as both a "time of immense joy and of an immense opportunity wasted".

The balance sheet would seem to support Moratti's reasoning.

Rather than prompting an economic upturn, that victorious campaign was the prelude to a decline in the club's fortunes, both on and off the field.

Golden year...Moratti is thrown into the air by Inter players after the 2010 Serie A triumph

In 2010 the club generated €251m of turnover, but by 2012 that figure had dropped to €170m. Obviously, global recession does not help, but Moratti seems to feel that Inter failed to make the most of their magic moment.

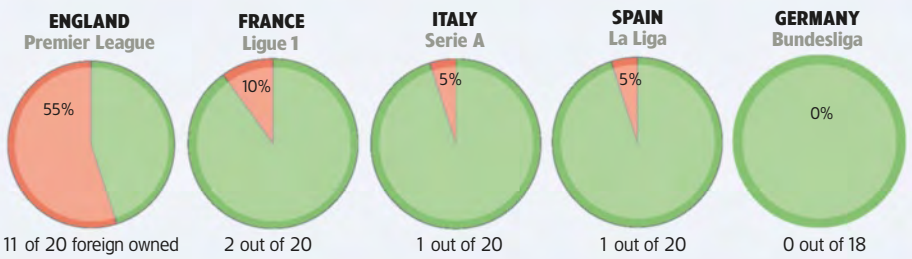
"Our real problem is our turnover," he argues. "Much bigger resources are needed if we are to develop. This is commercial, not to say industrial reasoning, which always sounds bad in the football context. What I am worried about is the team's future – and that has to begin with the growth of the 'brand' on the international market."

The basic idea of trying to sell Inter to the Thohir family was to combine local Italian football knowledge and contacts with dynamic Asian marketing skills.

Erick Thohir, who is the son of the Astra International automobile group's Teddy Thohir, has entrepreneurial experience of the world of sport, having been part of a consortium which in 2011

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP IN EUROPE'S BIG FIVE LEAGUES

Top-flight clubs owned by non-natives



> "Moratti's vision for the future [of Italian football] should become a polar star for all of us"
> Serie A president Maurizio Beretta

bought an NBA team, the Philadelphia 76ers, while along with basketball agent Joseph Levien he is a major shareholder in the MLS side DC United. Thohir Jnr is also a media tycoon, with his holdings including lifestyle and sports magazines such as *Parents Indonesia* and *Golf Digest*, newspapers *Harian Sin Chew Indonesia* and *Republika*, as well as TV station JakTV and various radio stations. In short, he looks like just the man for job.

Chinese whispers

Inter and Moratti have been down this road before – but to no useful effect. For much of last summer, media speculation claimed that the China Railway Construction Company was on the point of buying a 15 per cent holding in the club for €55m.

The deal was intended to see the Chinese contribute to the building of a new stadium for Inter, but unconfirmed media reports suggest that they pulled out of the deal after they had a good look at both the Inter books and the overall state of Italian football.

One of the biggest problems in arriving at a deal with the Thohir family concerns the question of Inter's constant haemorrhaging of money, with the Indonesians concerned that the cash they inject into the project would end up paying off losses rather than being used for recapitalisation.

And then there is the delicate matter of just what role Moratti would play in any new set-up. Inter, of course, are intimately linked to the Moratti family, with Massimo's father Angelo having owned the club through its glory years of the 1960s, when Inter won two European Cups and three Serie A titles.

New player...Thohir is already the major shareholder at MLS outfit DC United

While acknowledging the vital importance of maintaining the Moratti link with the club, if you own a 65 to 70 per cent controlling share of a club you are bound to want to call the shots.

At present, the majority of commentators seem to think that Moratti is making the right move in attempting to sell to the Asian tycoon.

Former Inter great Sandro Mazzola sees it as a "positive opportunity both for Inter and Italy". Another former Inter player Evaristo Beccalossi says that, while it is difficult to envisage Inter without the Moratti family, the potential influx of foreign money "comes as no surprise".

Could Italian football finally be set to benefit from its very own "Abramovich/Mansour effect"? WS

VICTOR GUSEV
in Moscow

Anzhi 'reloading' the dream

Owner slashes the budget of the country's richest club

Four games into the new season and Anzhi were fourth from bottom of the Premier League, with billionaire owner Suleyman Kerimov set to pull the plug on his side's extravagant adventure.

Having spent an astronomical €234.2million on players since January 2011, Kerimov has announced an official "reload" of the club .

According to Konstantin Remchukov, who is the chairman of the club's board of directors, Anzhi's budget will be cut from €140m to around €50m – which will now be less than that of Zenit, CSKA and Spartak. The latest strategy will rely on home-grown talent rather than expensive legionnaires, with signings such as Brazilian midfielder Willian, for €35m from Shakhtar Donetsk, and salaries like that of Samuel Eto'o, at €21m a year, a thing of the past.

A 2-2 draw with Lokomotiv, in which Eto'o missed a last-minute penalty, was followed by a loss to Dinamo, a draw with Kryliya Sovetov and a home defeat by Rostov. But it was events off the field, involving a conflict among the team's leading players, which was the final straw for the 47-year-old Kerimov.

National captain Igor Denisov, who was signed from Zenit for €15m earlier this summer, has clashed with Cameroonian striker and club captain Eto'o, blaming him and several other foreign players for not contributing enough to the team effort on the pitch.

The shake-up has already begun, with Dutch coach Guus Hiddink, who had been on €8.3m a year, leaving just two games into the new campaign. He was succeeded by fellow countryman Rene Meulensteen, who was in the hot seat for less than a month before being replaced by Gadzhi Gadzhiyev, with the 67-year-old returning for his fourth spell in charge of the club.

End of the dream

With the glamour and European ambitions of the project now gone, the majority of Anzhi's big names will soon be saying goodbye to their short – but lucrative – Russian stay. Among those almost certain to be on their way is Eto'o, who will have to leave his €80,000-a-month four-storey penthouse in the centre of Moscow from where he used to take a private helicopter to the club training camp just outside the capital.

Denisov has already left, joining Dynamo Moscow along with former Chelsea midfielder Yury Zhirkov and striker Alexander Kokorin, while midfielder Oleg Shatov is off to Zenit.

In all likelihood, Kerimov's team will also move back to Makhachkala – more than 1,000 miles away from their current base in Moscow where they have been training for security and comfort reasons. The unstable political situation in the mountainous area bordering on Chechnya means Anzhi are still banned from hosting UEFA games there, although a 50,000-seat arena has just been built – with Kerimov's money, of course.

> Rumours that Suleyman Kerimov's decision to cut his investment in Anzhi was due to illness have been denied

The Anzhi story is symptomatic of the general situation in Russian football today. Unable to survive on sponsorship, TV rights, gate money and players sales, clubs are forced to depend on an owner's generosity. Although spending has been nowhere near the scale of Anzhi, the collapse of top-flight sides FC Moscow and Saturn in recent years should serve as a warning to others who dare to dream. **WS**

Pulling the plug...Kerimov

Back to reality...Anzhi captain Eto'o (right) is likely to be one of the first out of the door as the club slashes its budget over the current season

STEVE MENARY

Youngsters set to lead the way

Coach hopes under-20s' success could influence senior decisions

When the senior squad is named for Curacao's next international, in November, the impact of this year's CONCACAF Under-20 championship may become evident.

Last summer, the country's juniors surpassed all expectations by winning their qualifying group to reach the 2013 finals. Experienced Dutch coach Hendrik Jan Schrijver was recruited for the tournament in Mexico and he opted to go with a side made up of home-grown players and those who had left the island but remained loyal to Curacao.

Point taken...Curacao (in white) gained a 2-2 draw away to Haiti in a qualifier for next year's World Cup

"We did not invite players who have already played for Dutch national teams, only players with roots in Curacao who had never played," explains Schrijver.

"I approached those players and we had a training camp in the Netherlands. Then I went to Curacao. We had a training camp there and I combined the best players from each group; about 60 per cent from Holland, 40 per cent from Curacao.

"The basic level of the players who are at academies in the Netherlands is better, their positioning is better, but the players from Curacao played with heart and were good too."

The two groups of players met for the first time in the airport at New York on route to Mexico, where playing at high altitude for the first time would be another disadvantage.

Schrijver's side lost 3-0 to the hosts and 2-1 against El Salvador, but as both of their opponents qualified for this summer's Under-20 World Cup the results were no disgrace.

Future...the successful under-20 side that reached the continental finals

Gaining experience

The experience gained in Mexico should help to accelerate the development of a promising batch of island-based players who have options unavailable to most Caribbean players. As part of Holland, Curacao residents have Dutch passports so players can move to Europe without visa problems.

To prove the point, striker Liandro Martis went to Feyenoord for four months after the tournament, following in the footsteps of Dutch-based teenagers in the squad such as Ajax midfielder Derwin Martina and striker Denzel Slager of RKC Waalwijk.

Curacao's last senior international games were in the 2012 Caribbean Cup qualifiers when they lost all three games. They have not played since a 4-0 thrashing by St Vincent & the Grenadines in October, and following the game Argentinian coach Manual Bilches stepped down.

> From 1954 until 2010, Curacao competed as part of the Netherlands Antilles, a constituent country which also included Aruba, Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten

The Curacao Football Federation estimates that there are 30 players playing professionally in Europe who would have been eligible to represent the national side. These range from those with roots on the island, such as Paris Saint-Germain's Gregory Van der Wiel and Jetro Willems of PSV Eindhoven, to those who moved abroad, such as Newcastle United midfielder Vurnon Anita.

All of those mentioned above have opted to play for Holland, but Curacao's success at the CONCACAF Under-20s could see more young players go to Europe but remain loyal to the island.

"The best young players in Curacao will follow this route," says Schrijver.

"In four or five years, Curacao can be very good." WS

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Curacao is the largest of the three Leeward Islands in the Caribbean and a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It is in the southern Caribbean Sea, off the Venezuelan coast.

Population 142,000
Size 171 sq miles
Capital Willemstad
Language Dutch, English and Papiamentu
Religion Catholic

PAUL GARDNER
in New York

Gold Cup success for the hosts

Klinsmann's "second string" help boost confidence for Brazil 2014

It has been a busy summer for national coach Jurgen Klinsmann and his USA national team. Or should that be teams? Klinsmann has now called on over 50 players during his two years in charge and there is still uncertainty over who makes up his first-choice selection.

The playing of two important tournaments this summer, separated by only three weeks, more or less forced him to field two different sides: one for the World Cup qualifiers and a "B team" for the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Taking the World Cup games as the more important, Klinsmann's nucleus would seem to be Tim Howard in goal; Omar Gonzalez at centre-back; Michael Bradley, Clint Dempsey and Jermaine Jones in midfield; with Jozy Altidore up front. Brad Evans may well have nailed down the right-back spot, with either DaMarcus Beasley or Geoff Cameron at left-back.

Cameron also figures as an option to partner Gonzalez in central defence, although Matt Besler has staked a strong claim. With Eddie Johnson partnering Altidore, the final place must clearly go to Landon Donovan. His five goals for the Gold Cup team revealed that he has returned from a self-imposed 10-month absence from the game in tremendous form.

The US won all six of its games in the Gold Cup, beating Panama 1-0 in the Final, but, in a sad footnote, the generally positive performances of Klinsmann's side were undermined by an injury to Stuart Holden. Easing his way back into the national set-up after being sidelined for almost 18 months, he damaged his right knee in the Gold Cup Final and is set for another lengthy recovery period.

Klinsmann also faces something of a quandary following the shock US$9million return of Dempsey from Europe to play for Seattle Sounders.

It is a move that flies in the face of the coach's oft-repeated advice to American players that they should always be seeking to move up a level, always seeking a challenge. Indeed, Klinsmann's voice had been one of the loudest urging Dempsey to leave Fulham and join Tottenham Hotspur.

With six of his likely first-choice line-up now playing in the States, maybe he will have to modify his preference for players with European clubs and tone down his normally critical opinion of the standard of play in MLS.

And while the possibility of the Qatar 2022 World Cup being moved to the winter has the European nations fuming, it is an idea that would work very nicely for Major League Soccer.

Here comes the summer

As MLS is a summer league, a winter World Cup would prove no disruption. While FIFA president Sepp Blatter has urged the US to switch to a winter league, this is advice from someone who does not understand American geography, climate or its sports scene.

Competition from wealthy, powerful pro sports such as gridiron, baseball and basketball, plus the appeal of ice hockey, presents a hostile ambience not found in any other nation. Playing MLS in the summer may not be ideal, but it is generally seen as presenting fewer problems than a winter season.

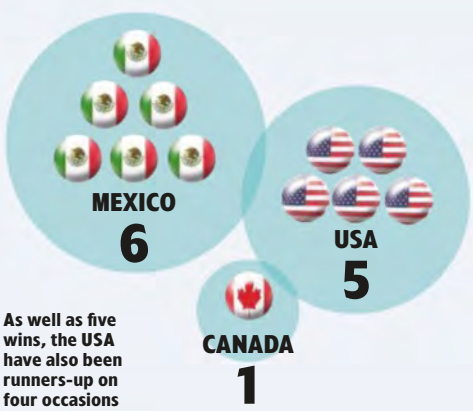
Perversely, some of the summer problems are caused by football itself. This season, MLS has been battling for attention against the Confederations Cup, the European Under-21 championship, the Under-20 World Cup, three CONCACAF competitions that feature MLS teams and players, plus the US Open Cup, which involves all 19 MLS teams. And that is to say nothing of the now routine invasion by European teams. This year an eight-team tournament featured Real Madrid, Juventus, Chelsea and Milan, with admission prices ranging from $77 to $788.

Going for gold...Joe Corona is surrounded by Panama defenders in the USA's 1-0 triumph

Having coped with this welter of competing games, MLS hardly did itself any favours in the All-Star Game, which traditionally marks the half-way point of the season. The MLS All Stars – made up of players who, of course, had never played together before – were outclassed 3-1 by Roma in a game that was not a true reflection of the MLS.

Like any other league, MLS is a mixture of the good, the bad and, occasionally, the ugly. Its better teams are all capable of playing excellent football. At the All-Star break, the top teams were Sporting Kansas City and New York Red Bulls in the Eastern Conference, with Real Salt Lake and Vancouver Whitecaps leading the way in the Western Conference. But those

CONCACAF GOLD CUP WINNERS



As well as five wins, the USA have also been runners-up on four occasions

> "It has meant a lot to all of us. We had a dream and a goal, and I think we once again showed the American experience"
>
> Landon Donovan on winning the Gold Cup

positions will surely change before the end of the season.

Red Bulls, who are too reliant on an injury-prone Thierry Henry, veer from looking like champions to playing like amateurs, while Kansas City have shown a similar inconsistency, though without the Red Bulls' melodramatics.

Montreal make an impact

The season began with a fine run of wins for Montreal Impact under their new coach, Marco Schallibaum, and with Italian veterans Alessandro Nesta and Marco Di Vaio to the fore. But after their initial spurt, Impact tailed off. Whether the veterans were feeling the strain is up for question, but a team that had looked so good early on could easily return to winning ways.

Real Salt Lake's form has also had its bumpy moments. Coach Jason Kreis has had harsh words for referees, but the problems surely come from his players' failings. The team is capable of playing the best football in the league – and it will need to do that because the Western Conference houses three good sides in lowly positions who are likely to move up as the season progresses: the current champions Los Angeles Galaxy, Dallas and Seattle Sounders.

Sounders continue to draw enormous crowds, with an average home attendance this season of 40,521 – almost twice that of the second-best, Galaxy. But the pressure is on coach Sigi Schmid to bring home the title. At the beginning of this season, Seattle seemed to have reached desperation point when they ditched Colombian striker Fredy Montero, one of the most skilful players in the league, and replaced him with the bustling Obafemi Martins. But they have, of course, pulled off an astonishing coup with the signing of Dempsey.

For MLS commissioner Don Garber the Dempsey deal is a loud statement that MLS is to be taken seriously. It is also a logical step along the path that Garber says will make MLS one of the world's top leagues by 2022. WS

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Lovell soccer

THE QUALIFIERS SOUTH KOREA

Tough task for new boss

Asian legend Hong Myung-bo may have the backing of the nation...but for how long? By John Duerden

Fall guy...Park Joo-ho takes a tumble during South Korea's 3-0 final qualifying win over Lebanon

The celebrations that greeted South Korea reaching an eighth successive World Cup finals weren't muted just because a 1-0 defeat at home to Iran meant the "Taegeuk Warriors" had only qualified ahead of Uzbekistan on goal difference; the entire road to Brazil had been, to say the least, a bumpy one.

A 2-1 defeat to Lebanon in November 2011 cost coach Cho Kwang-rae his job, and although his replacement Choi Kang-hee began comfortably enough, with two convincing wins in the final group phase, he also struggled.

The football became increasingly predictable and direct. Choi seemed more comfortable with domestic players and he looked unsure about how to use Son Heung-min, who had been scoring regularly in the Bundesliga.

Just two clean sheets in eight games and an inability to defend set-pieces also underlined problems at the back. Choi chopped and changed from game to game, increasingly turning to older players despite having plenty of younger options. He vowed to go if South Korea lost their final qualifier against Iran and, sure enough, the day after the 1-0 loss he quit.

Asian legend

On July 1, Hong Myung-bo took up the reins. The captain of the 2002 World Cup team and the man who led the 2012 Olympic team to bronze, he is successful, charismatic and a genuine Asian football legend. The 44-year-old is also extremely popular. But how long that lasts will depend on results over the next year.

And there have already been problems. Comments from the departed Choi about splits in the camp, between domestic and overseas players, led to the contents of Ki Sung-yeung's private Facebook account being made public. The Swansea City midfielder was revealed to have taunted Choi before and after his first game in charge, in February 2012, and warned him not to mess with the European stars.

A young player criticising a respected, elder coach did not go down well and, with the media baying for blood, Ki swiftly apologised. It may have been enough for him to escape punishment from the South Korean FA, but it did not do him any favours with the fans.

The East Asian Championship in July, which is for Asian-based players only, gave Hong an opportunity to look at some local talent. However, despite enjoying home advantage, South Korea failed to win any of their three games – against Australia, China and Japan – and managed just one goal in the process.

With a need to tighten the defence, restore team spirit, introduce some creativity and find a leader and a goalscorer, there is a tough task ahead. But the Korean public believes that if anyone can do it, Hong can. WS

For the record

QUALIFICATION CAMPAIGN
THIRD ROUND, GROUP B

02.09.11	Lebanon (h)	6-0
06.09.11	Kuwait (a)	1-1
11.10.11	United Arab Emirates (h)	2-1
11.11.11	United Arab Emirates (a)	2-0
15.11.11	Lebanon (a)	1-2
29.02.12	Kuwait (h)	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	6	4	1	1	14	4	13
Lebanon	6	3	1	2	10	14	10
Kuwait	6	2	2	2	8	9	8
UAE	6	1	0	5	9	14	3

FOURTH ROUND, GROUP A

08.06.12	Qatar (a)	4-1
12.06.12	Lebanon (h)	3-0
11.09.12	Uzbekistan (a)	2-2
16.10.12	Iran (a)	0-1
26.03.13	Qatar (h)	2-1
04.06.13	Lebanon (a)	1-1
11.06.13	Uzbekistan (h)	1-0
18.06.13	Iran (h)	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	8	5	1	2	8	2	16
South Korea	8	4	2	2	13	7	14
Uzbekistan	8	4	2	2	11	6	14
Qatar	8	2	1	5	5	13	7
Lebanon	8	1	2	5	3	12	5

Players used in qualifiers

FOURTEEN GAMES
JUNG Sung-ryong (1,260 mins)
TWELVE
LEE Keun-ho (773 mins)
ELEVEN
JI Dong-won (491 mins)
TEN
KWAK Tae-hwi (891 mins)
NINE
LEE Jung-soo (810 mins), KI Sung-yueng (688 mins), LEE Dong-gook (598 mins), SON Heung-min (365 mins)
EIGHT
KOO Ja-cheol (613 mins), KIM Shin-wook (495 mins)
SEVEN
PARK Chu-young (526 mins)
SIX
KIM Bok-yung (422 mins)
FIVE
LEE Yong-rae (450 mins), HONG Jeong-ho (431 mins), LEE Chung-yong (345 mins), NAM Tae-hee (232 mins)
FOUR
CHA Du-ri (287 mins)
THREE
CHOI Hyo-jin (270 mins), KIM Chi-woo (270 mins), KIM Young-gwon (270 mins), OH Beom-seok (270 mins), PARK Joo-ho (270 mins), HONG Chul (245 mins), SEO Jung-jin (222 mins), KIM Kee-hee (189 mins), KIM Jung-woo (104 mins), YOON Bit-garam (27 mins)
TWO
JUNG In-whan (180 mins), KIM Chang-soo (180 mins), LEE Myung-joo (180 mins), PARK Won-jae (180 mins), PARK Jong-woo (167 mins), KIM Do-heon (132 mins), LEE Seung-ki (115 mins), YEOM Ki-hun (115 mins), HA Dae-sung (96 mins), KIM Jae-sung (84 mins)
ONE
JANG Hyun-soo (90 mins), KIM Nam-il (90 mins), KO Yo-han (90 mins), SHIN Kwang-hoon (90 mins), YUN Suk-young (90 mins), KIM Sang-sik (79 mins), HAN Sang-wun (65 mins), HAN Kook-young (50 mins)

SCORERS IN QUALIFIERS
SIX GOALS
PARK Chu-young
FIVE
LEE Keun-ho
TWO
JI Dong-won, KIM Bok-yung, KOO Ja-cheol, LEE Dong-gook
ONE
KIM Chi-woo, KIM Jung-woo, KIM Shin-wook, KWAK Tae-hwi, SON Heung-min

*** plus three own goals**

The coach

Challenge...new coach Hong

Hong Myung-bo

Having played in four World Cups, reaching the semi-finals in 2002, the highly rated new coach may be loved by players and supporters alike, but this is by far his biggest challenge to date.

The key players

Koo Ja-cheol

The 2012 Olympic captain has struggled with injuries since the London Games, but the Bundesliga-based midfielder's aggression, hard work and ability to get forward could be crucial.

Aggressive...midfield dynamo Koo

Kim Young-gwon

Italian coach Marcello Lippi, who is his boss at Guangzhou Evergrande in China, says the versatile defender is good enough to play for Manchester United. He should get a run in the team under Hong and could be the man to finally solve the central defensive problems.

Ki...controversial figure

Ki Sung-yeung

Currently seen as a potential threat to team spirit but, at his best, the Swansea City midfielder makes South Korea tick.

Son Heung-min

Joined Bayer Leverkusen from Hamburg for €10million in the summer and now needs Hong to give him the chance to replicate his club form for his country.

Front man...a big hit in the Bundesliga, Son is Hong's best chance of goals

The unanswered questions

Will a year in charge be enough for the coach?

Hong may be familiar with Korean football but he is still coming into an unhappy team with less than 12 months to go before the World Cup. He has to whip the team into shape fast.

Tense...Brazil will call for cool heads

Are there splits within the camp?

When Ki plays for the national team, how will he fare with the fans, the media – and especially with his team-mates? The team spirit is legendary, but if Ki becomes a divisive figure it will present a serious problem.

Can Hong finally sort out the defence?

The 2012 Olympic backline was everything the senior team isn't: organized, disciplined and well drilled. This is Hong's first and biggest task.

Reasons to be cheerful

Nucleus...Hong will integrate some of those who won bronze at the Olympics

Young but experienced

The current crop of players may be youthful but they are also full of European and tournament experience.

Son Heung-min

For the first time in many years, South Korea may have a genuine match winner – if they can find the best way to use him.

Olympic foundation

The nucleus of players who won bronze at the 2012 Olympics are there for Hong to build upon.

Reasons to be fearful

Set-piece syndrome

South Korea have been weak in the centre of defence ever since Hong retired as a player after the 2002 World Cup, with set-pieces a particular problem.

Lack of a leader

This young team currently lacks a senior figure on the pitch, with Park Ji-sung resisting all attempts to lure him back into the fold.

No genuine goalscorer

There's plenty of attacking talent, but scoring goals can be a problem.

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PLAYERS TO WATCH

In a special feature, *World Soccer* writers analyse the most significant transfers of the summer – and suggest the young talent and old hands to keep an eye on

BIG-MONEY MOVES

The major summer transfer deals

Manchester's latest boy from Brazil

Fernandinho

Manchester City

The producer of the documentary charting the wonderful eight-year stint of Brazilian midfield ace Fernandinho at top Ukraine side Shakhtar Donetsk certainly got his timing right when releasing *Ferna 7* this spring. With the subject of the movie joining Manchester City a few months later, the only way to keep his memory alive at the Donbass Arena has been for fans to rush out and buy the DVD. And since his departure, sales continue to rocket.

Little wonder supporters and club coach Mircea Lucescu were so sad to see the 28-year-old head for the Premier League. A mixture of warrior and creative hub, Fernando Luiz Roza has been instrumental in Shakhtar's success story of the past few years; an achievement-packed epoch featuring six Ukraine championships, four national cups, the 2009 UEFA Cup and a string of fine performances in the Champions League.

Despite Shakhtar being home to a clutch of top-class Brazilian stars such as Willian, Jadson and Douglas Costa, Fernandinho and company have long thought their geographical position has led successive Brazil coaches to ignore them – and the theory is not solely sour grapes. A decade since shooting to fame after heading the winner in Brazil's World Under-20 final triumph of 2003, Fernandinho only has five full caps – and, for someone so talented, that is a crying shame.

> "If I only wanted money I would have stayed in the Ukraine...I came here to win"
>
> Fernandinho on his move to Manchester City

While sound distribution, technical polish and the ability to score goals should make him a most valuable commodity, he could be the undoing of many an opponent longside City focal point Yaya Toure.

Almost a decade has passed since Kleberson – like Fernandinho an ex-Atletico Paranaense midfielder – flopped at Manchester United. Fernandinho is unlikely to suffer the same unhappy fate.

Nick Bidwell

Mario Gotze

Bayern Munich

After European champions Bayern paid the €37m release clause in his Borussia Dortmund contract, Gotze became Bayern's record transfer signing. Missed last season's Champions League Final through injury.

• *See Biography, page 64*

Paulinho

Tottenham Hotspur

Spurs paid Corinthians £17m for one of the stars of Brazil's Confederations Cup side. "Paulinho is like a black Lampard," said Juan Riquelme after playing with Paulinho in the Libertadores Cup last year. "The only difference being he scores goals with his head too."

Alvaro Negredo

Manchester City

City may have spent last season treading water in the Premier League, but they got their summer transfer deals done early this year. Negredo was signed in mid-July for £16.4m and joined Jesus Navas and Fernandinho as City look to reinforce under new coach Manuel Pellegrini.

A true number nine

Roberto Soldado

Tottenham Hotspur

At the Confederations Cup, Roberto Soldado was the only member of the Spain squad not with Barcelona, Real Madrid or playing abroad. Now, following his £26million move from Valencia to Tottenham – for a club record – he is no longer the odd man out.

Of all the Spanish players joining the exodus from La Liga to the Premier League, the 25-year-old is the most likely to bring goals. He scored 59 in 101 La Liga matches for Valencia, having previously made his mark at Getafe following a move from his first club Real Madrid.

For all the talk of false nines in Spanish football, Soldado is a classic number nine: a penalty-box predator who will score goals if supplied with the ammunition.

Spurs have spent heavily but impressively this summer, with Soldado, Paulinho, Etienne Capoue and Nacer Chadli all looking like they will make a contribution to Spurs' push for a Champions League place.

A sideshow to the Premier League battle will be Soldado's own personal campaign to be included in Spain's World Cup squad, assuming they qualify.

Soldado missed out on Spain's Euro 2012 success after he was omitted from the final 22 in favour of Fernando Torres.

Irrespective of whether Chelsea finish above Spurs in the Premier League, Soldado could have the last laugh.

John Holmesdale

Neymar

Barcelona

Fresh from his starring role at the Confederations Cup, the Brazilian arrived in Europe from Santos following a €57m deal. The move to Barcelona had long been expected and his relationship with Lionel Messi will be fascinating, although he will be expected to play second fiddle to the Argentinian.

Andre Schurrle

Chelsea

Chelsea will hope that their £18m signing from Bayer Leverkusen fares better than Marko Marin, the last German youngster to arrive at Stamford Bridge with a reputation as an exciting attacking talent. Marin has been packed off on loan to Sevilla but Schurrle appears to be a cut above.

James Rodriguez

Monaco

The €40m paid to Monaco is a lot of money for a 22-year-old, so it will be interesting to see if Rodriguez can deal with the attendant pressures in his first season in France. His transfer fee made him the second-most expensive Colombian of all time – after team-mate Falcao.

PREMIER LEAGUE REFUSENIKS

The players who turned their backs on offers from the Premier League and moved elsewhere

East European is a class act

Henrikh Mkhitaryan

Borussia Dortmund

"All my life I've been learning. When you stop learning you are dead." Armenian goalscoring midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan, at €27.5million Borussia Dortmund's record signing, not only showcases his uncommon intelligence on the field of play, but he is equally smart off it. Clever enough to have studied business and law to a high standard, he is fluent in no fewer than five languages: Armenian, Russian, French, English and Portuguese.

Dortmund's attempts to prise the 24-year-old away from Shakhtar Donetsk this summer were anything but straightforward; needing patience and perseverance to finally get their man. Liverpool were keen on a deal, but Dortmund have acquired arguably the most talented young eastern European player of the moment.

Regarded as a national treasure back home in Armenia, Mkhitaryan looks a perfect fit for the attacking hurricane that is Dortmund. A proven maker of chances, he is also a dangerous finisher, topping the Ukraine league goalscoring charts last season with 25.

"You always have to pay attention to him," says Dynamo Kiev legend Andriy Shevchenko. "He attacks the spaces very well. Like a Frank Lampard, he is an expert at turning up in the box and putting away chances. He really does impress me."

As much as they adore players of flair and enterprise, Dortmund fans also have a soft spot for committed wearers of their colours, and they are unlikely to be disappointed with Mkhitaryan on that score. He prides himself on his dedication to his profession and during his three years at Shakhtar he was so focused on his job that he had a flat at the training ground. Never mind the trappings of fame, all he wanted to do was improve as a footballer.

> "Although a number 10, he also makes a big contribution defensively"
> Andriy Shevchenko on Mkhitaryan

The son of ex-Armenia international striker Hamlet Mkhitaryan – who died of a brain tumour in 1996 at the age of 33 – Henrikh sees each and every one of his achievements in the game as a tribute to his father. "I always wanted to follow in his footsteps and his example has fuelled the realisation of my dream," he says. "I believe my father is watching over me and is proud."

Nick Bidwell

Isco

Real Madrid

Capped by Spain at under-21 level, the midfielder starred for Malaga in the Champions League last term, and a transfer to help alleviate the club's financial woes was a given. Manuel Pellegrini seemed set to take him to Manchester City, but Isco opted to stay in Spain, joining Real Madrid, where he will compete with Mesut Ozil for a starting place.

Younes Belhanda

Dynamo Kiev

One of the stars of Montpellier's 2012 French league triumph, he was reported to have rejected an offer from Arsenal in favour of the Ukraine. The move was a surprise as he had stated his desire to play in the Champions League.

Edinson Cavani

Paris Saint-Germain

The hot-shot striker was linked with Chelsea but chose France. The €63m fee is an eye-watering sum of money for PSG to pay, but Cavani is a proven goalscorer at the very highest level. He'll need to be, though, given that the club have bought him to win the Champions League.

Radamel Falcao
Monaco

Heavily linked with Chelsea and Real Madrid this summer, but Monaco announced their intention to compete with the very best when they paid Atletico Madrid €60m. His battle with Cavani to be Ligue 1's top striker will be the talk of the French season.

Luiz Gustavo
Wolfsburg

The Brazilian defensive midfielder was squeezed out at European champions Bayern Munich by the arrival of Thiago Alcantara. However, he chose to stay in the Bundesliga, reportedly on a salary of €8m – which was more than Arsenal were prepared to pay.

Thiago Alcantara
Bayern Munich

Manchester United were keen to land the star of Spain's European Under-21 triumph, but Bayern had other ideas. Both clubs were prepared to trigger the €18m release clause in the player's Barcelona contract, but Bayern's offer of €20m, rising to €25m, was the one finally accepted. Thiago's agent is Pere Guardiola, brother of new Bayern coach Pep.

Gonzalo Higuain
Napoli

Napoli's purchase of 25-year-old Argentinian Gonzalo Higuain was one of the most interesting summer deals in Italian football, not least because Arsenal were confident of landing the striker from Real Madrid for £23m. However, the English club found themselves gazumped by Napoli, who spent a significant proportion of the fee received from Paris Saint-Germain for Edinson Cavani.

When Higuain arrived in late July at Rome's Fiumicino airport, which is three hours north of Naples, he was greeted by around 2,000 Napoli fans keen to get a first glimpse of the man who has to fill the void left by the departure of Cavani to Paris.

Higuain made a promising start to his Napoli career, scoring an opportunist tap-in goal in a home friendly against Benfica. He then scored a splendid goal in Argentina's 2-1 friendly win over Italy at the Olimpico Stadium in Rome, in early August, in a game played in honour of Pope Francis. But it will be in Serie A that he is judged.

For Higuain, the past will always be with him; not just because of the importance of his immediate predecessor, Cavani, but arguably even more so because, as an Argentinian, he will immediately run into the "Maradona effect".

It is inevitable that, with his every failure or success, he will be mercilessly compared to his illustrious compatriot.

Paddy Agnew

YOUNG TALENT

Up and coming youngsters who are tipped to break through this season

Flyer set to make his mark

Christian Atsu
Porto

Ghana has a rich tradition for producing wonderful young players of technical prowess, vitality and self-confidence. But even in a land flush with footballing diamonds, this 20-year-old left-winger is a special case, the sort of spine-tingling prospect that makes fans and talent-spotters just glad to be alive.

In common with Ghanaian legend Abedi Pele – the creative heartbeat of the national team in the 1980s and 1990s – Atsu's biggest asset is the ease with which he can take on and beat defenders. Pacy, elusive and dexterous, his close control is so flawless that he seems to have the ball attached to his feet by an invisible thread. With his instantaneous changes of direction and plethora of tricks, opposition defenders are often left groping at thin air.

Quite magnificent when going off script and inventing moments of magic with the outside of his left foot, he does, however, have much more to his game than the instinctive and the individualistic. His decision-making, movement off the ball and eye for a pass shows more maturity and intelligence than most players his age.

Born in the Ghanaian coastal town of Ada, he began his footballing education at the Feyenoord academy just outside the capital Accra before being lured away by Kasoa-based second division club Cheetah.

Renowned for their global scouting network, Porto arrived on the scene to run the rule over the teenager and duly signed him during the January 2010 transfer window. Once he overcame a run of injuries which held him back in the early stages of his career at the Portuguese giants, Atsu began to hit his European stride, going on to be voted the youth team's player of the season. He then also displayed exceptional form during a 12-month loan spell at Rio Ave in 2011-12 as he gained his first taste of Portuguese top-flight action.

> "For [Ghana] he has been incredible. If he carries on like this, he will be a star"
> Ghana striker Asamoah Gyan

A full Ghana international since June of last year - marking the occasion with a goal against Lesotho - Atsu now is a fully-fledged Black Star, a young west African champion from tip to toe.

Nick Bidwell

Oliver Torres
Atletico Madrid

An outstanding midfielder with Spain Under-20s, his playing style has often been compared to that of Barcelona's Xavi. There is a rumour that David Villa's departure from Camp Nou to Atletico has given Barca first option on signing Torres. Has been with Atletico since the age of 13.

Thorgan Hazard
Zulte Waregem

The younger brother of Belgium and Chelsea star Eden Hazard, the 20-year-old attacking midfielder also is the property of the Stamford Bridge club. Now in his second season on loan at the Belgian club, he won his first full cap for his country against the USA in May.

Aleksandar Dragovic
Dynamo Kiev

Promising Austrian centre-back who recently became his country's most expensive player when he left Swiss side Basle for the Ukraine in a €9m deal. Now 22, he has been capped 21 times by Austria after being ignored by Serbia – the country of his parents and his original preferred option.

Matthias Ginter
Freiburg

Among the best prospects playing in the Bundesliga today, this polished and intelligent central defender or holding midfielder wisely prefers taking on more responsibility at his mother club to a big-money move abroad. At 19, he is a current Germany Under-21 international.

Jurgen Locadia
PSV

Physical power, two good feet and bags of composure are what makes this 19-year-old striker such a hot property. Scored a hat-trick on his Eredivisie debut with PSV last term after coming on as a sub against VVV-Venlo with only 22 minutes left to play.

Clement Grenier
Lyon

Already with one full cap for France – awarded against Uruguay at the end of last season – to his name, the classy number 10 is the new great hope of Gallic football. One of Ligue 1's most skilled performers, he is a sumptuous mix of creativity, spectacular shooting and free-kick wizardry.

Luis Alberto
Liverpool

Able to play provide punch and guile anywhere across the front-line, the 20-year-old described himself as "the happiest man on earth" after completing an €8million switch from Sevilla to Liverpool in the off-season. Spent last term on loan to Barcelona B where he scored 11 goals.

Martin Montoya
Barcelona

With Dani Alves now the wrong side of 30, this attack-conscious right-back could well be in a position to enjoy more Camp Nou playing time in the coming season. A key member of Spain's winning side at this year's Euro Under-21 championship, he has also been in the full squad.

Gerard Deulofeu
Everton

In common with all the most accomplished graduates of Barcelona's La Masia academy, this winger scores top marks for balance, ball-manipulation and quickness over the ground. Surprised many when he was farmed out on loan to Premier League Everton this season.

Florian Thauvin
Lille

One of the stars of France's triumph in the World Under-20 this summer. Back in January the highly gifted left-sided attacker agreed to swop Corsican side Bastia for Lille for the forthcoming season, but now he regrets the decision and is agitating for something better.

Lucas Digne
Paris Saint-Germain

PSG have petro-dollars to burn and did not hesitate in paying a cool €15million for the left-back who is another of France's Under-20 stars. PSG beat rivals Monaco to the highly rated 19-year-old left-back and he now has to justify the price tag.

GOOD BUSINESS

The deals that could make a difference at the season's end

Back to where he started

Benat Etxebarria

Athletic Bilbao

After a season piled high with bust-ups, sloppy defending and general underachievement, Athletic Bilbao were in dire need of a tonic during the summer intermission – and they appear to have found such a pick-me-up in the shape of Real Betis midfielder Benat Etxebarria.

A snip at €9.5million, including add-ons, Benat would have cost far more in normal circumstances, but with Betis heavily in debt and the contract of the 26-year-old due to run out in January, Athletic got themselves a bargain. And they have every right to feel they have pulled off a market-place coup.

A prompter of awe-inspiring technical ability, vision, inventiveness, dead-ball prowess and spectacular goals, Benat has proved himself to be one of the most creative players in Spain. Awarded his first full cap by Spain in May 2012, in a friendly against Serbia, he might not enjoy the global reputation of the majority of his international colleagues, but he is a class act nonetheless and has to be a real contender for the World Cup expedition to Brazil next year.

His move to Bilbao is a return to source. Basque born and bred, he learnt his trade in the Athletic youth ranks, subsequently featuring for both the third string and the reserves. However, after just one first-team outing – a six-minute run-out as a substitute against Osasuna in October 2006 – he was cut loose in 2009. Opting for a fresh start, he moved down south to join Betis and, following an initial stint with the Andalucian club's B team, he played a starring role in the club's promotion to the top flight in 2011 and helped to re-establish them as a respected La Liga outfit.

> "I'm grateful to Betis for believing in me so I can return [to Bilbao]. It's a dream I've had since I was a child" Benat Etxebarria

"I think the key to his development into a top player was the time he spent with us in the second division," says Betis coach Pepe Mel. "He made so much progress that season, taking on board his failings and really learning his profession."

Determined to live his dream of Basque Country headliner, Benat is primed and ready for redemption.

Nick Bidwell

Dmitri Payet

Marseille

Arrived at Lille from Saint-Etienne in 2011 with expectations of making his new club serious competitors on the European stage. However, the attacking midfielder left for Marseille two years later with the jury still out on whether he really is worth all the praise that he receives.

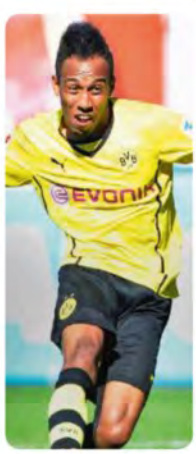
Kevin Strootman

Roma

One of the biggest deals of the Italian summer transfer market saw the dynamic Dutch midfielder join Roma from PSV for €16.5m. Roma saw off competition from Serie A rivals Milan to sign a player who last year became the youngest-ever player to captain Holland's senior national side.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

Borussia Dortmund



With or without the firepower of Polish striker Robert Lewandowski, Dortmund will be guaranteed goals this season following their €23m capture of the pacy Gabon international. The 24-year-old forward excelled in France with Saint-Etienne last season, scoring 21 goals in 44 games.

Iago Aspas
Liverpool

The hero of Celta Vigo's successful battle to stay in La Liga last season joined Liverpool in a £7.7m deal during the summer. Comparisons with Luis Suarez are inevitable, but it remains to be seen whether the 26-year-old will partner the Uruguayan striker at Anfield or replace him.

Wilfried Bony
Swansea City

The top scorer in the Dutch league last season with 31 goals in 30 games, he became Swansea's record signing this summer when the Welsh club paid Vitesse £12m for his services. The Premier League side have already had a return on their money with his goals in the Europa League.

Emanuele Giaccherini
Sunderland

The Italy international arrived in England having been sold by Juventus in a surprise £6.5m transfer. The diminutive Giaccherini made it to Serie A in 2011 after playing his way around Serie C1 and B before making Italy's squad for the 2012 European Championship.

Taking a big step up

Dries Mertens
Napoli

Only the third Belgian to ever wear the sky blue of Napoli – following in the footsteps of full-back Bertrand Crasson and goalkeeper Olivier Renard – the flamboyant left-winger or deep-lying forward was a €9million purchase from PSV Eindhoven who looks tailor-made for the Serie A side.

Napoli fans are among the most passionate in the world and they have an affection for attackers of an effervescent and audacious bent. Equally adept at finishing as concocting chances, the diminutive 26-year-old should fit the bill perfectly, destabilising defences with his one-on-one flair, powers of invention, subtlety of pass and powerful shooting.

Some might argue that accumulating goals and assists by the truckload in the Eredivisie does not necessarily mean he will reap similar rewards in the more defensively disciplined environment of Italian football. But if anyone has the game to thrive in tight Serie A spaces, it is this jack-in-the-box, whose low centre of gravity and dribbling skills can render him a slippery customer.

He is a confident individual too, and for all those who suggest he has bitten off more than he can chew by moving to the second-best team in Italy, he says: "I don't have any fear at all about the competition for places I'll face at Napoli.

"I'm ready to fight every week for a spot in the team. I don't think I've put my role with the Belgian national team at risk. New Napoli coach Rafa Benitez knows me quite well and what my qualities are."

> "My transfer was fully thought out. I'd played in Holland for the last seven years and it was a conscious decision to go for something new"
>
> Dries Mertens

Once discarded by Anderlecht for being too small, his switch to Napoli and his 23 caps for Belgium are proof positive that even the best can slip through the net.

Nick Bidwell

SOUTH AMERICAN TALENT

The continent's brightest lights who are ready to shine in Europe

Shakhtar's new mini-marvel

BERNARD
Shakhtar Donetsk

The revelation of last year's Brazilian championship, who has followed on this year with a triumphant Libertadores Cup campaign and inclusion in the Confederations Cup squad, the little winger has made big strides in a short space of time.

And the 20-year-old now begins the next stage of his career in the Ukraine, having joined Shakhtar Donetsk from Atletico Mineiro for €25million in August.

All this has come quickly for a player who was once considered too small for top-class football. His father financed hormone-growth treatment – based on supplements, rather than the injections Lionel Messi was subjected to – but, even after the programme, he still cuts a diminutive, almost childlike figure.

Yet, as Bernard himself says: "Spain, with a team full of little guys, have shown that football is not all about strength."

Happy on either flank, he combines pace, technique and intelligence, making the pitch wide, crossing from the right or cutting in from the left. One of the finest sights in South American football over the past year has been his partnership with Ronaldinho, with the veteran playmaker supplying the passes for Bernard to catch the eye with the clever timing of his runs.

> "He has joy in his legs,"
> Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari on Bernard

It will be fascinating to see how he copes without such an illustrious figure to serve as his supply line – and whether the reduced space and extra intensity of the European game will make him look like a lightweight.

Tim Vickery

Eder ALVAREZ
River Plate

Part of the River squad that won the Under-20 Libertadores Cup last year, he has been likened to the great Daniel Passarella by club coach Ramon Diaz. Full of crunching tackles and powerful surges, a big money move to Europe surely beckons for the 20-year-old central defender.

FRED
Shakhtar Donetsk

Not to be confused with the big Brazilian striker, this Fred is a busy, little midfielder who is nippy around the pitch and quick to move the ball. Made his breakthrough last year with Internacional and has made an instant impression among his new club's big Brazilian contingent.

Yordy REYNA
Salzburg

Bullet-fast little striker who is at his best when played in behind the defensive line. Made his name with Alianza Lima and has already won senior Peru caps. Has now moved to Europe in a bid to establish himself as the successor to the generation of Jefferson Farfan and co.

Giorgian DE ARRASCAETA
Defensor

Attacking midfielder who, at 19, was the revelation of the last Uruguayan championship, taking on more and more responsibility during the course of the campaign. Strikes the ball well, glides past his marker and enhanced his growing reputation further at the World Youth Cup.

Nicolas LOPEZ
Udinese

One of the recent stars of Uruguay's under-20 side, he left Roma for Udinese this summer as part of the deal that took Mehdi Benatia in the opposite direction. Moved to Italy from Nacional in 2012 – and although he played only a handful of games for the Rome side, it may well turn out that Udinese have done a tidy piece of business in signing this highly promising forward.

Carlos BACCA
Sevilla

The 26-year-old arrived in Spain after a hugely successful year in Belgium with Club Brugge where he scored 24 league goals. At €7million – and a reported €30m buyout clause in his new contract – he isn't cheap, but could fill the void created by the departure of Alvaro Negredo to Manchester City.

Juan QUINTERO
Porto

This talented, 20-year-old playmaker was a star of the recent World Youth Cup, scoring three times. After making some impressive cameos for Atletico Nacional in last year's Libertadores, he went on loan to Italian side Pescara before joining Porto this summer in a €5million deal.

DORIA
Botafogo

Hugely promising left-footed centre-back who has been first choice at his club for the past year. At the tender age of 18, he is mature beyond his years: quick, combative and classy. Chelsea have already made a bid and there are likely to be plenty of other suitors among the European elite.

Luciano VIETTO
Racing Club

The most impressive of an interesting generation of Racing youth, he is a technically gifted 19-year-old striker or attacking midfielder. Neat and skilful, he combines well and has become a proven scorer in both club football and for the Argentina under-20 side.

Cristian CUEVAS
Vitesse

Teenage left-wing-back or winger who made his debut for Chilean side O'Higgins just a month after his 16th birthday, in 2011. Penned a five-year deal with Chelsea this summer following a successful trial, but will spend this season on loan, honing his talents in the Eredivisie with Vitesse.

ON THE COMEBACK TRAIL Players with plenty to prove this season

German striker offers a different kind of threat

Mario Gomez
Fiorentina

Rome sports daily *Corriere Dello Sport* recently asked a panel of 50 experts – made up of coaches, agents and club directors – to name the team who might challenge champions Juventus this season. And while everyone seems to agree that Juve remain the side to beat, they also seem convinced that the main challenge will come from either Napoli or Fiorentina.

For that to happen for the latter, much will depend on one of the most interesting summer purchases in Italian football, namely 28-year-old striker Mario Gomez.

> "It is very easy to play with Mario"
> Gomez's new Fiorentina team-mate Giuseppe Rossi

Gomez already knows something of the pressures peculiar to Italian football. When he was officially "presented" to the Fiorentina fans at the Stadio Franchi in July he found himself autographing balls and kicking them into a 25,000 crowd.

However, he may take time to adapt to life in Serie A. Fiorentina coach Vincenzo Montella acknowledges that part of the problem may be that his side are not accustomed to playing with an out-and-out centre-forward. The coach freely concedes that much will depend on the extent to which full-back and captain Manuel Pasqual, as well as Gomez's attacking partners Giuseppe Rossi and Serb talent Adem Ljajic can lay on the crosses for the German.

Gomez has made it clear that his move to Italy had been prompted above all by the desire for a new experience, a new challenge. In reality, he wanted to get away from a situation which saw him spend a lot of time on the bench at Bayern Munich.

Former Italy internationals, Franco Causio and Francesco Graziani are just two commentators who argue that Gomez may do well in Serie A, where the classic central target man has become something of an endangered species. Certainly, Fiorentina's opponents will find an attack led by Gomez a very different business from a strike force which in recent seasons has largely been oriented around the mercurial, play-making skills of Montenegrin Stevan Jovetic, who is now with Manchester City.

Paddy Agnew

Jeremy Toulalan
Monaco

While Monaco's marquee signings have grabbed all the headlines this summer, their French defensive midfielder Toulalan remains very underrated. And his return home from Malaga may well prove to be one of the close season's shrewdest pieces of business – especially as he's still just 29.

Fernando Llorente
Juventus

The former Athletic Bilbao striker – capped 22 times by Spain – may have difficulty claiming a first-team place in a side where Carlos Tevez and Mirko Vucinic could be first choice. But he will be helped by the fact that Juve are competing for the Champions League and Serie A.

Eric Abidal
Monaco

Earning himself a lucrative three-year deal with the new money men of French football at the age of 33 – especially after a liver transplant in 2012 – was a quite remarkable achievement for the former Barcelona defender, who has recently returned to the France side.

Carlos Tevez
Juventus

It is all too obvious, yet all too true, that this could be a crucial season for the 29-year-old Argentinian. He will end up out on his ear if he attempts any of the stunts he pulled at Manchester City. The "Old Lady" of Italian football does not forgive either bad manners or poor quality football.

Iker Casillas
Real Madrid

Spain's captain and record cap-holder began La Liga on the bench for Real Madrid, with Diego Lopez being preferred in goal by new coach Carlo Ancelotti. Casillas remains his country's first-choice but in a World Cup season, he will want to be playing regularly for his club in the build-up to Brazil.

Stefan Kiessling
Bayer Leverkusen

The Germany striker extended his contract with Leverkusen this summer after being linked with big-money moves to Premier League sides Chelsea and West Ham United. But he still needs to persuade national coach Joachim Low that he will be the man in next summer's World Cup.

A fresh challenge awaits Spain's record scorer

David Villa
Atletico Madrid

David Villa was all set for England until Atletico turned up. And then, suddenly, it was done. "It took barely three days," says the striker of a deal which took him to his fifth La Liga side, via Sporting Gijon, Real Zaragoza, Valencia and Barcelona.

When Spain's record international scorer was presented at the Vicente Calderon, 20,000 fans were there to see him. The club had lost Radamel Falcao, sold to Monaco, and lost out on Alvaro Negredo, who was bought by Manchester City, but now they had signed one of the few men that could turn the pessimism on its head.

Villa cost an initial €2.1million and if he stays another season, Atletico will pay €2m more, with a further €1m for a third year – which is a great investment for a player who has scored a goal almost every other game in his career.

What little doubt there is centres on his fitness and his age. Villa is 31 now and he played 28 league games last season, usually off the bench, and 15 the year before. His career was interrupted by the broken leg he suffered at the World Club Cup in Japan and since the injury some were concerned about his recovery.

He insists he's fully fit and now he wants to play on a regular basis. Villa has admitted that was the principal reason for leaving the Camp Nou, and getting more time on the pitch was a key consideration in his decision to join Atletico. They offered the chance to to stay in the country and compete in the Champions League, with the World Cup at the end of the season. Vicente Del Bosque, the Spain coach, has waited for Villa before, but he would be under pressure to look elsewhere if the striker did not play sufficiently often.

There appeared to be an emotional side to his decision too: that need to feel important, central. Barcelona had made little real effort to keep Villa. They had Alexis Sanchez already and Neymar arrived too.

> "Atletico gave me the affection that perhaps I needed at that moment"
> David Villa

Villa would have moved to the Premier League but it was not a prospect that really appealed as he wanted to remain in Spain as his third child is less than a year old.

Sid Lowe

SURPRISE DEALS

The summer transfers that took everybody by surprise

MLS springs shock return

Clint Dempsey
Seattle Sounders

Sounders pulled off an astonishing coup with the announcement that they had signed Clint Dempsey from Tottenham Hotspur in a deal that no one thought possible.

After all, top players in their prime do not leave the Premier League and return to MLS. However, there will be arguments that, at 30, maybe Dempsey is already past his best; just as there are rumblings that MLS manipulated its regulations to allow him to sign for Seattle.

The league's explanation was only partially satisfactory. Normally, when an MLS player leaves to go to Europe and then chooses to return to MLS, the rights to his contract belong with the club he left. In Dempsey's case, this was New England Revolution, who he left in 2007 to join Fulham. However, the ruling only applies to free agents, which Dempsey was not. Fulham paid a transfer fee for him, which meant Revolution no longer held his registration.

So far so good. But MLS also has an allocation process for returning national-team players, with a ranking of clubs in order of priority. The top-ranked club is not Seattle, but the Portland Timbers. According to the allocation process, Portland should have had first shot at Dempsey. Not so, said MLS, because the allocation process does not apply to national team players who return as "Designated Players". A logical exception, maybe, but one that did not appear in the MLS Rules posted online.

So Tottenham will receive a US$9million transfer fee (to be paid by MLS, not Seattle) while Sounders will pay Dempsey around US$5.2m a year for the next three-and-a-half seasons.

> "I didn't want to come back when I was past it because I wanted to make an impact"
>
> Clint Dempsey

That is money that is right up there at the David Beckham level. It means that Dempsey will be earning three times as much as team-mate and strike partner Obafemi Martins, and around 142 times as much as the lowest-salaried player in the Sounders dressing room.

Paul Gardner

Pepe Reina
Napoli

The 31-year-old Spanish goalkeeper is once more playing under his old boss Rafa Benitez, but he has claimed that he was unaware of Liverpool's plan to loan him to Napoli for the season. With Simon Mignolet signed from Sunderland, Liverpool do not expect Reina to return to Anfield.

Leroy Fer
Norwich City

The Dutch midfielder was all set to join Everton in January, only for him to fail a medical because of a long-standing knee injury. But Norwich had no such reservations this summer when they signed the 23-year-old on a four-year deal for a fee believed to be £7m. Has two full caps for Holland.

Jose Campana
Crystal Palace

Another example of the Spanish exodus to England. Spain's Under-20 captain refused to sign a new contract at Sevilla and was sold to Premier League new boys Palace in a £1.75m deal. The midfielder, who has also played in the Euro Under-19 Championship twice, signed a four-year deal with the London club.

Daniel Carvajal
Real Madrid

A product of the Real Madrid youth system, the right-back moved to Bayer Leverkusen last summer after finding first-team opportunities hard to come by under Jose Mourinho. However, after an excellent season in the Bundesliga, Madrid paid €6.5m to bring him back to Spain.

Massimo Ambrosini
Fiorentina

Having won the Champions League twice and collected four Serie A winners medals, the veteran midfielder left Milan this summer after 18 years with the club. But instead of taking up an offer to move abroad, including a proposal from West Ham United, he signed a one-year deal with Fiorentina.

Antonio Cassano
Parma

Another season, another club for the maverick 31-year-old who fell out with Internazionale coach Andrea Stramaccioni last season. Parma are his fourth club in as many campaigns. As part of the deal that took the Italy international to Parma, Algeria's Ishak Belfodil moved to Inter.

Raul Albiol
Napoli

Napoli spent most of the cash from the sale of Edinson Cavani to Paris Saint-Germain on a new group of Spanish-speaking players in Naples. Spain centre-back Albiol arrived from Real Madrid for a fee of €12m and joins new team-mates Jose Maria Callejon, Gonzalo Higuain and Pepe Reina.

Luca Caldirola
Werder Bremen

Italy's captain at the Euro Under-21 finals – where they finished runners-up to Spain – made a surprising switch to the Bundesliga, joining Bremen for €2m. The centre-back had limited first-team opportunities at Internazionale and spent time on loan at Brescia and Vitesse Arnhem.

Jeremain Lens
Dynamo Kiev

After three seasons at PSV, the Dutch international forward followed the money to the Ukraine after Dynamo Kiev agreed a fee of €10m. "Jeremain has made a financially very attractive move which is good for both him and the club," said PSV technical director Marcel Brands.

Marquinhos
Paris Saint-Germain

After just one season with Roma the 19-year-old Brazilian defender arrives in Paris with a £27m price tag and has a whole lot to live up to. Says of his move to France: "I am delighted to be joining PSG, a club where so many Brazilians have played and helped write the club's history."

Marc Muniesa
Stoke City

The versatile Barcelona-raised defender opted to join Stoke as Mark Hughes tries to change the club's playing style in the post-Pulis era. Muniesa found first-team opportunities limited at Camp Nou and suffered a cruciate knee injury in the summer of 2012.

STAYING PUT

Players linked with summer transfers who remain in situ

Chelsea's loan brigade

Thibault Courtois

Atletico Madrid

Thibault Courtois is staying put. In Madrid, that is, for his third successive season on loan at Atletico from parent club Chelsea. Two years ago, the Belgium international goalkeeper, then aged 19, was signed by Chelsea from Genk and immediately sent out to Spain.

During his time in La Liga, Courtois has consistently been rated as one of Europe's top keepers, often higher than Chelsea's incumbent number one, Petr Cech.

It remains unclear if or when Courtois will be recalled by Chelsea. The club have more young players out on loan than any other leading English, Spanish or German club. Last season, Chelsea's interim manager Rafa Benitez complained about the number of players out on loan – 23 at its peak – in what was effectively a criticism of club owner Roman Abramovich.

The desire of the Russian billionaire to see Chelsea quickly established as a major developer of talent saw the club hoover up youngsters from across Europe and South America, but few have made the first team.

Romelu Lukaku and Kevin De Bruyne are two exceptions. Having excelled at West Brom and Werder Bremen respectively last season, they are in Chelsea's first-team squad for the forthcoming campaign.

This year, many others have been dispatched to clubs across Europe. They include Marko Marin, on loan in La Liga at Sevilla and Thorgan Hazard, younger brother of Eden, in his second season at Zulte Waregem in Belgium.

There is a clutch of players at Vitesse Arnhem, including Cristian Cuevas – the promising Chilean teenager spotted at the South American Youth Championship earlier this year – Gael Kakuta, Patrick Van Arnault and Lucas Piazon, who spent last season at Malaga.

Wallace, a recent signing from Brazil's Fluminense, has been sent to Internazionale for the season, while Oriel Romeu is at Valencia. Croatian Stipe Perica was signed but then sent off to NAC Breda.

Chelsea also have a batch of mostly young English players parked at the likes of Colchester United, Blackburn Rovers, Brentford, MK Dons and Walsall. They hope to follow in the footsteps of Nathaniel Chalobah, who excelled in Watford's promotion challenge last season, and Josh McEachran who finally earned some playing time at Middlesbrough.

Whether any make it into the Chelsea first team, or achieve the success of Courtois in Spain, remains to be seen. But Chelsea's loan system, controversial though it may be, is paying dividends for Roman Abramovich.

Gavin Hamilton

Christian Benteke

Aston Villa

The Belgian striker enjoyed a revelatory first season playing in the Premier League and he seemed all set to leave Villa after he submitted a transfer request. However, money talks in football – and after agreeing an extension, until 2017, he withdrew his demand.

Ilkay Gundogan

Borussia Dortmund

A crucial figure in Dortmund's run to the Champions League Final, he had been linked with a move this summer. But following the departure of Mario Gotze to Bayern Munich, Gundogan will be Dortmund's most important creative figure this season, and the club resisted all offers for him.

Juan Mata

Chelsea

The Spain international's future at Stamford Bridge appeared uncertain following the return of Jose Mourinho. Mata was reported to have been offered to Manchester United in part exchange for Wayne Rooney. But it soon became clear that Mata will play an important role this season.

Pole barred from dream Bayern move

Robert Lewandowski
Borussia Dortmund

In alliance with his agents, Dortmund's outstanding Polish striker Robert Lewandowski tried every trick in the book to force through a transfer to Bayern Munich this summer. The refusal to enter into contract renewal negotiations, the tip-offs to friendly journalists, the ever-present "fresh challenge" rhetoric, the nods and winks behind the scenes. Yet it was all to no avail.

After proving powerless to prevent the recent departure of attacking midfielder Mario Gotze for Bayern, the Dortmund movers and shakers simply could not allow a second key man to depart for their arch domestic rivals, going on to inform Lewandowski he would have to stay in the Ruhr for the final year of his current deal.

Dortmund's hard-headed stance was not exactly the softest of options. By forcing the would-be nest-fleer to see out his contract, Borussia will not receive any transfer fee when the Pole moves on in 2014 and there has to be a question mark about Lewandowski's readiness for the battle in the campaign ahead. Despite a clutch of top European sides showing interest in him, Lewandowski only had eyes for Bayern and with this avenue now closed – at least for the moment – he very much finds himself in a state of limbo.

So just which Lewandowski will we see this term? The brilliant marksman who could not stop scoring last term (24 Bundesliga goals and 10 in the Champions League, including a memorable four-strike salvo against Real Madrid in the semi-final first-leg), or a brooding, sulking diva going through the motions prior to packing his bags?

It might well be that the second scenario is the most likely. Lewandowski believes Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke and general manager Michael Zorc reneged on a verbal agreement for him to join Bayern and certainly pulled no punches when he said: "One thing was said to my face, only for it to turn out very differently to what was agreed. When I promise something I keep my word. I always gave 100 per cent."

Lewandowski even went as far as to suggest that there could come a time at Dortmund when "I come to a game in a bad mood" and while his working relationship with coach Jurgen Klopp seems intact, the alarm bells have to be ringing.

> "Perhaps betrayal is too harsh a word, but I was very disappointed by a couple of people at the club" Robert Lewandowski

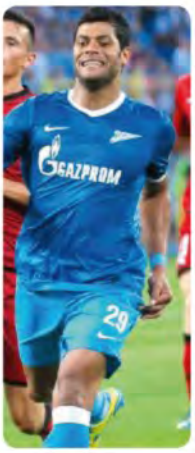
Dortmund can only hope and pray that their main source of goals quickly calms down and accepts his lot. "Obviously he is very disappointed and especially with me," says Watzke. "But I had to make a decision for the good of the club as a whole. We needed our plans to be clear-cut and settled."

Nick Bidwell

Sergio Aguero
Manchester City

The Argentinian forward was widely linked with a move to Real Madrid earlier this summer. But the offer of a contract extension from City soon persuaded him otherwise and new coach Manuel Pellegrini is now insisting that the South American is crucial to City's plans this season.

Hulk
Zenit



This time last year, the Brazil international striker headed to St Petersburg after a surprise €60m transfer from Porto. Chelsea made enquiries about bringing the 27-year-old back to western Europe this summer, but he has insisted he will stay in Russia.

Julian Draxler
Schalke

Unlike most young pros, the German attacking midfield sensation has a precise career plan, and rather than say yes to offers from Manchester City, Chelsea or Real Madrid, he is stubbornly sticking to his schedule of remaining in Gelsenkirchen for at least another season.

PLAYER Biography

Mario Gotze

Germany's latest *wunderkind* has the world at his feet. By Nick Bidwell

Gotze...welcome to Bayern

Those Borussia Dortmund fans who believe that Mario Gotze committed an act of high treason when he decided to end his 12-year association with the Ruhr club this spring and sign for deadly rivals Bayern Munich tend to forget the ambition and emotion which induced "Germany's Messi" to join the newly crowned European champions for a staggering €37million.

A widely held view among those of a yellow-and-black persuasion is that the 21-year-old's sole motivation for moving on was the 100 per cent pay increase Bayern put on the table, taking his salary to €10m a year. But supporters scorned do have a history of burning at the stake those they previously worshipped. And, trapped in a world of for or against, many of the Borussia faithful would rather walk over hot coals than accept an alternative thesis: that either Gotze simply could not say no to the club he had supported as a boy, or he just fancied working with Bayern's iconic new coach, Pep Guardiola.

Gotze, a money-grabbing mercenary? Not if his down-to-earth lifestyle is anything to go by. Despite his high-profile and his achievements so far – notably his 22 caps for Germany and back-to-back Bundesliga titles with Dortmund in 2011 and 2012 – his public image is very much of the anti-superstar, someone who, until recently, was happy to live with his parents and watch the pennies.

"Every week and month I set myself a limit on what I spend," revealed Gotze a couple of years ago. "It's not good to go from one to a hundred in one fell swoop, to overdo it.

"If, aged 19, I went out and bought a Ferrari, what would come next? I drive a normal car. I don't need status symbols."

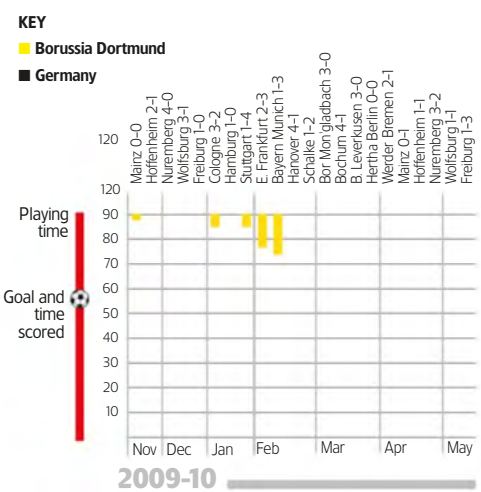
Bavarian boy

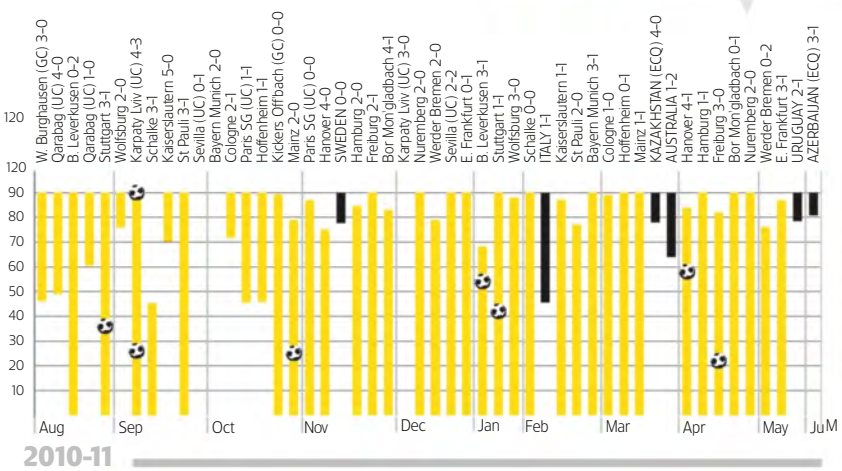
Born in the mountainous Allgau area of southern Bavaria, and raised there for the first half-dozen years of his life, the ▸

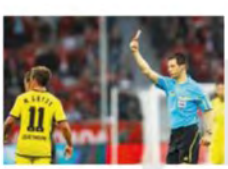
TIMELINE: EVERY MATCH, EVERY MINUTE, EVERY GOAL

WC World Cup qualifier
ECF Euro Championship finals
ECQ Euro Championship qualifier
CL UEFA Champions League
UC UEFA Cup/Europa League
GC German Cup
GSC German Super Cup

Apr 30, 2011 – celebrates winning the Bundesliga title with Dortmund team-mates following a 2-0 win at home to Nuremberg.

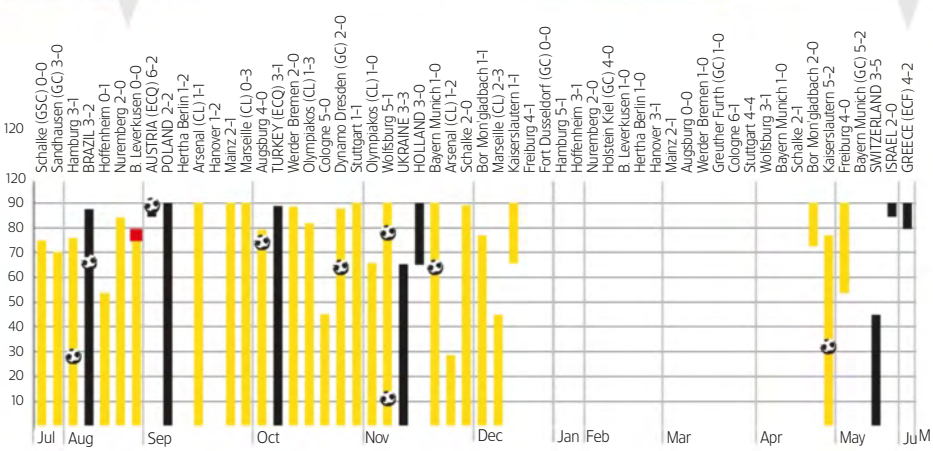






Aug 27, 2011 – shown a red card for the first time in his career, during the Bundesliga game away to Bayer Leverkusen.

Jun 22, 2012 – makes his only senior tournament appearance so far, playing 10 minutes in Germany's 4-2 win against Greece in Euro 2012 in Gdansk.



2011-12

Champions...Gotze celebrates the Bundesliga title

FACT FILE

Mario Gotze

Nationality
German

Age
21 (03.06.92)

Place of birth
Memmingen, Germany

Height
5ft 9in (1.76m)

Position
Winger

Teams
Borussia Dortmund
(2009-13) 116 games/31 goals
Bayern Munich
(2013-present)
0 games/0 goals*
Germany
(2010-present)
22 games/5 goals*

Honours
Borussia Dortmund
Bundesliga 2011, 2012
Germany
European Under-17 Championship 2009

(up to and including 26.07.13)*

football-mad kid naturally developed an affinity for the region's number one club, Bayern Munich – and according to his grandfather, Willi Gotze, the youngster often used to sleep in Bayern-themed bedclothes.

"As a little boy at his first club in Ronsberg, he'd be the smallest one on the pitch, but would still make all his opponents dizzy with his skills," recalls his grandfather. "When he was small, he'd always be on the move and have a ball at his feet. There wasn't a day when he'd be without a ball. In the yard or on the street, he was always kicking a ball.

"He was a rascal though and did break the lights on my garage by shooting at them. I used to say to myself: 'If he carries on like this, he can do something special.'"

Under the influence of their father Jurgen, an information technology professor, and mother Astrid, all three Gotze boys – the eldest, Fabian, is now a professional with Munich side Unterhaching, while the youngest, Felix, currently plays for Dortmund's under-15 side – were brought up on a rich diet of sporting pursuits. Tennis and skiing were particular favourites in the Gotze household, and when his father took the family with him for a 12-month posting at a university in Houston, Texas, the adolescent Mario had the chance to try his hand at baseball and basketball.

"What the Gotze family did for their children was incredible," says Friedel-Heinz Knoch, Mario's former junior-school teacher. "On weekends, the mother would accompany one child to their chosen activity, the father would go with another to a sports field and a friend of the family would take the third to his match."

Young sub...Gotze makes his Germany debut

Prodigious talent...the 16-year-old Gotze in action for Dortmund's junior team in 2008

But as their father insists: "It was not a case of my wife and I pushing our children in a certain direction.

"We just supported them in whatever they wanted to do and that essentially meant driving them to games and training sessions. We let them find their own way. Their achievements belong to them alone. That's the best part of it. The higher they have gone in football, the more fun they've had."

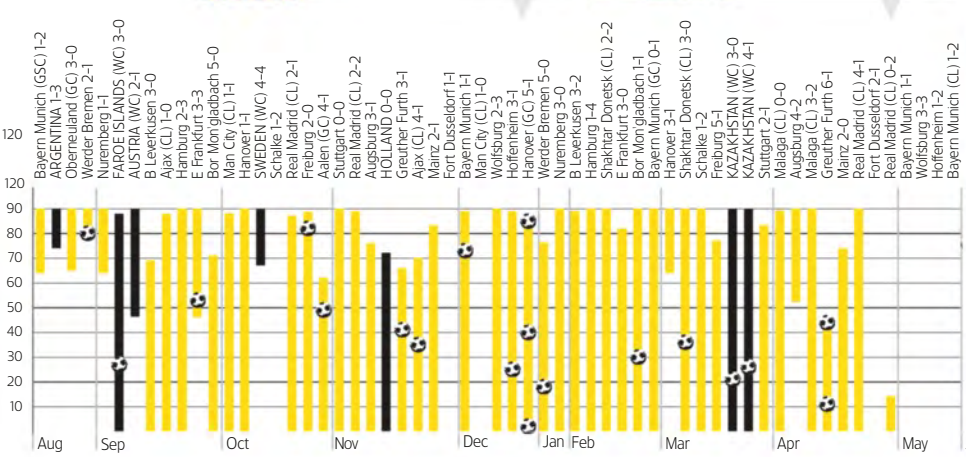
In contrast to his father's vocation as a rational thinker, a juggler of modern technology, data and mathematical formulae, Mario has built his career on instinct, natural flair and imagination – all of which was in evidence from the earliest of ages.

At Hombrucher SV, the suburban Dortmund club the six-year-old joined following his dad's acceptance of a position at a local university, young Mario's obvious love of Bayern Munich

KEY
- Borussia Dortmund
- Germany

Dec 19, 2012 – celebrates with team-mate Marco Reus after scoring his first and only hat-trick for Dortmund.

Apr 30, 2013 – substituted due to injury in the Champions League semi-final at Real Madrid.



Key man...Gotze in action for Germany

Bayern new boys...Gotze and coach Pep Guardiola

initially grated with team-mates. But it did not take long for them to realise that he was something special.

"Straight away I was struck by Mario's feel for the game, his intelligence and his unbelievable technique," explains Christian Droese, his coach at Hombrucher. "He was at his strongest just behind the strikers and scored the bulk of our goals. Unlike others, he never needed to look down at the ball. He always knew where it was.

"He was the most ambitious boy at the club. He had no problem playing with older boys. On the pitch it doesn't matter how old you are. Only that you can play. And Mario was the best."

The most accomplished, but not the most vocal it would seem. Droese remembers Gotze turning down the club captaincy after coming top of a player ballot. Leading the team out and issuing orders were apparently of little importance. All he wanted to do was create and pile up the goals.

> "You could look world wide for a youngster of his quality and still not find anyone"
>
> Lars Ricken, Dortmund's head of youth development, on Gotze

Family support...Gotze (far left) with his parents and brothers

Team player

Prodigiously gifted youngsters can be quite insufferable as individuals, too full of their own importance and intolerant of the efforts of lesser mortals. But not the grounded Gotze. "Mario was never an egomaniac," points out Gerd Bredthauer, his old PE teacher at the Helene-Lange school in Dortmund. "He wasn't one to push himself forward. Despite others in the side not being of the same standard as him, he treated them with respect. He was team-orientated and you continue to see that in his game today."

A ball-playing artist capable of turning on the style anywhere in the attacking-third, Gotze attributes his success on the field of play to an accident of destiny, to what he calls "the will of God".

But don't be fooled by his modesty. While over-endowed with extraordinary ability, he still had to make the most of it, and even as a schoolboy he showed remarkable dedication to his craft, preferring the honing of his football skills to class skiing trips or swimming sessions.

"You didn't notice it at the time, but now I appreciate how disciplined he was in following his passion," says school teacher Knoch.

After two seasons with Hombrucher, the eight-year-old Gotze was inducted into the Borussia Dortmund academy in 2001 and would be off and running in no time at all. He starred in every age category from schoolboys to juniors, twice winning the Fritz Walter gold medal for the country's most promising player (the under-17 prize in 2009 and the under-18 award the following year) and inspiring Germany Under-17s to the European title in 2009.

Twisting and turning, prompting and probing, the youngster could do no wrong, and for his coaches at Dortmund it was simply a matter of wrapping him up warmly, giving him his head and

First of many...Gotze takes the ball around Brazil keeper Julio Cesar to score his first international goal

waiting for him to mature physically.

"When I see Mario turn it on, I can't help but think that I was playing another game entirely in my era," smiles Dortmund's head of youth development Lars Ricken, who back in the 1990s was a club hero himself, earning himself a place in club legend by coming off the bench to score a spectacular goal in the 3-1 Champions League Final win over Juventus in 1997.

"For us at Dortmund, it was clear very early on that Mario would end up as a prominent professional.

"Players like him are exceptional talents. You won't find anyone at this club who claims they discovered Gotze or made him what he is today. He always was going to make the grade."

Tender age

Gotze was finally deemed ready to rub shoulders with the Dortmund first team in November 2009, at the tender age of 17 years and five months, coming off the bench for the last few minutes of a goalless Bundesliga draw with Mainz. Careful to ease the youngster in gently, first-team coach Jurgen Klopp thought it wise to restrict him to a paltry total of just 46 minutes of action in the 2009-10 season.

But it would be a completely different story in the following campaign and Gotze missed just one fixture as Dortmund clinched their first German league title in nine years.

Only the chosen few are able to deliver so much, so soon. Twice a Bundesliga champion before exiting his teens, he was just 18 years and 167 days old when coach Joachim Low handed him his first senior cap against Sweden in November 2010. The youngest international debutant for Germany since centre-forward Uwe Seeler broke through in 1954, Gotze

Happy days... playing for Dortmund

> "Mario is one of those players who operates on instinct. He does everything by feel and makes it look so easy"
>
> Gotze's grandfather, Willi

would go on to open his scoring account in August 2011 in a 3-2 friendly victory over Brazil, his well-taken goal and all-round vibrancy and inventiveness earning him the nickname of "Gotzinho".

Three weeks later, thanks to a goal in a 6-2 thumping of Austria in a European Championship qualifier, he would become the youngest-ever *Nationalmannschaft* scorer in a competitive match.

"The trend in modern football is for increasingly less space and a similar lack of time for those in possession," says Low. "In attack, the need is for players who work the ball well in tight areas".

A reference, no doubt, to the magic of Mario Gotze.

Major talent

Agonisingly forced to sit out Dortmund's 2013 Champions League Final against Bayern because of a hamstring injury, Gotze can console himself with the thought that over the course of his career, he has every chance of featuring in showpieces galore.

Two years ago, during his time as German federation technical supremo, Bayern director of sport Matthias Sammer described Gotze as the "talent of the century". Now he has the perfect stage to prove Sammer right. **WS**

Double glory...Gotze and team-mate Dede celebrate a second successive Bundesliga title for Dortmund in 2012

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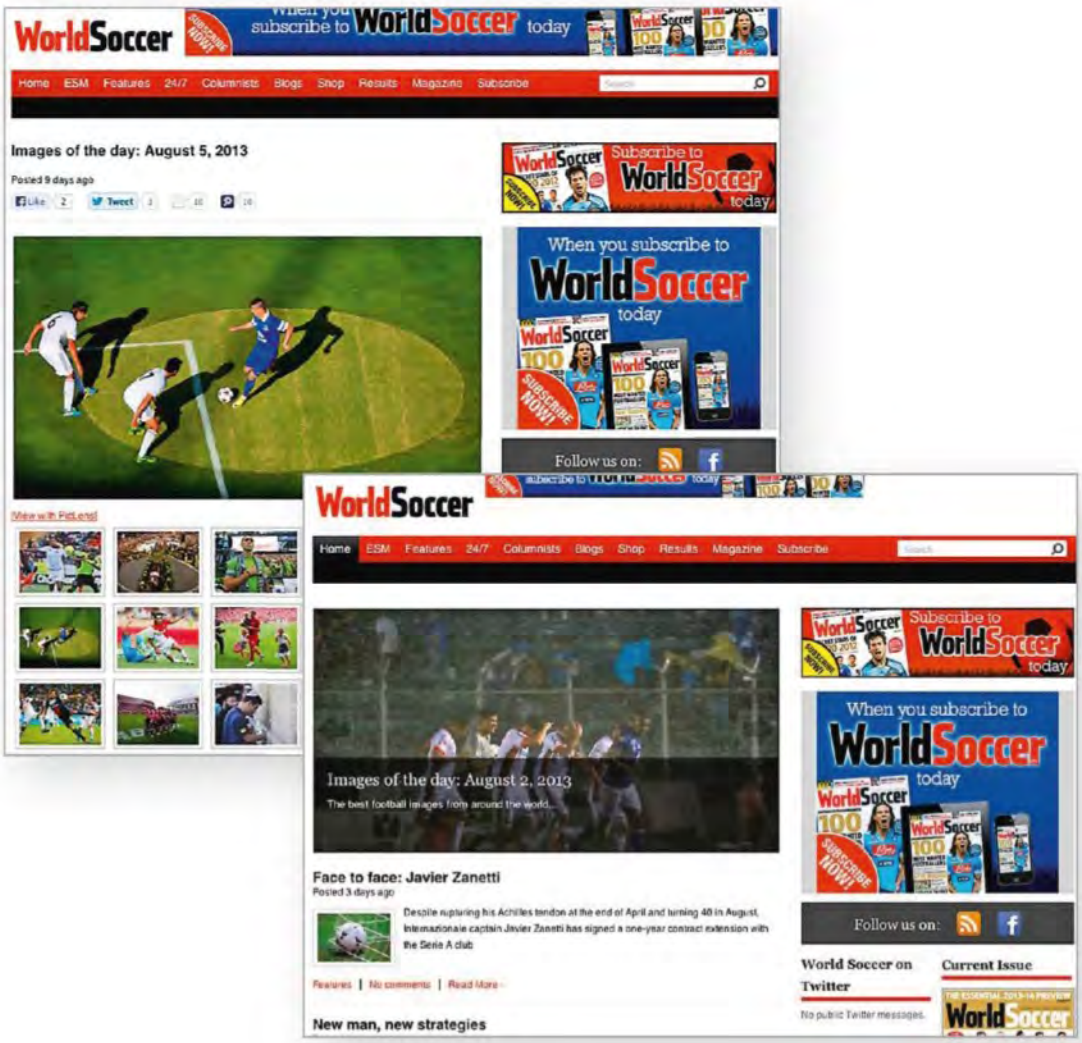

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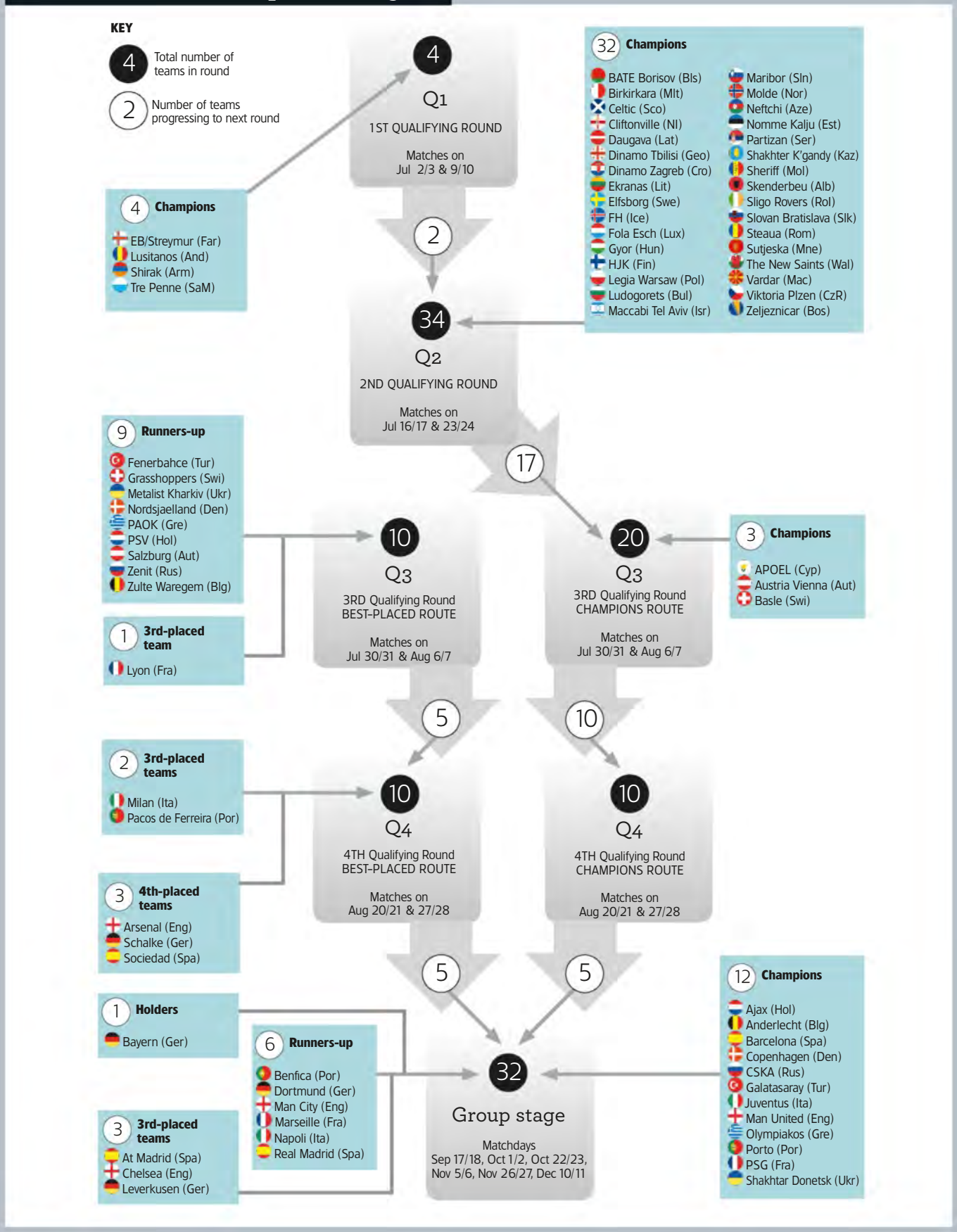

All the entrants and entry points of this season's European club competitions

2013-14 Europa League

Fairplay winners (3)
- Gefle (Swe)
- Mariehamn (Fin)
- Tromso (Nor)

League runners-up (25)
- AUK Broughton (Wal)
- Breidablik (Ice)
- Crusaders (NI)
- Dacia (Mol)
- Domzale (Sln)
- Drogheda (RoI)
- Dudelange (Lux)
- FC Santa Col (And)
- Fuglafjordur (Far)
- Inter Turku (Fin)
- Irtysh Pavlodar (Kaz)
- Kukesi (Alb)
- Levadia Tallinn (Est)
- Levski Sofia (Bul)
- Libertas (SaM)
- Metalurg Skopje (Mac)
- Mika (Arm)
- Mladost P'gorica (Mne)
- Qarabag (Aze)
- Sarajevo (Bos)
- Skonto (Lat)
- Suduva (Lit)
- Torpedo Kutaisi (Geo)
- Valletta (Mlt)
- Videoton (Hun)

3rd-placed teams (29)
- Aktobe (Kaz)
- Astra (Rom)
- Bala Town (Wal)
- Botev Plovdiv (Bul)
- Celik Niksic (Mne)
- Celje (Sln)
- Chikhura (Geo)
- Differdange (Lux)
- Dinamo Minsk (Bls)
- Gandzasar (Arm)
- HB Torshavn (Far)
- Honved (Hun)
- IBV (Ice)
- Inter Baku (Aze)
- Kruoja (Lit)
- Liepajas M'gs (Lat)
- Linfield (NI)
- Malmo (Swe)
- Milsami (Mol)
- Rosenborg (Nor)
- Sliema (Mlt)
- St Patrick's (RoI)
- Teuta (Alb)
- TPS Turku (Fin)
- Trans Narva (Est)
- Turnovo (Mac)
- Vojvodina (Ser)
- Zilina (Slk)
- Zrinjski (Bos)

Cup winners (19)
- Astana (Kaz)
- Flora Tallinn (Est)
- Glentoran (NI)
- Hibernians (Mlt)
- Jeunesse Esch (Lux)
- KR (Ice)
- Laci (Alb)
- La Fiorita (SaM)
- Prestatyn (Wal)
- Pyunik (Arm)
- Rudar (Mne)
- Teteks (Mac)
- Tiraspol (Mol)
- UE Santa Col (And)
- Vaduz (Lie)
- Ventspils (Lat)
- Vikingur (Far)
- Xazar Lankaran (Aze)
- Zalgiris (Lit)

76 — Q1
1ST QUALIFYING ROUND
Matches on Jul 4 & 11

38

80 — Q2
2ND QUALIFYING ROUND
Matches on Jul 18 & 25

42

Cup winners (15)
* not cup winner but listed in UEFA access list as such
- Beroe (Bul)
- Debrecen (Hun)
- Derry City (RoI)
- Dila Gori (Geo)*
- Gothenburg (Swe)
- Hajduk Split (Cro)
- Hodd (Nor)
- Honka (Fin)
- Jagodina (Ser)
- Lech Poznan (Pol)*
- Minsk (Bls)
- Olimpija (Sln)*
- Petrolul (Rom)
- Senica (Slk)*
- Siroki Brijeg (Bos)

Runners-up (12)
* cup winner
- Anorthosis (Cyp)
- Hacken (Swe)
- Hap Tel Aviv (Isr)
- Hibernian (Sco)*
- Pandurii (Rom)
- Red Star (Ser)
- Rijeka (Cro)
- Shakhtyor (Bls)
- Slask Wroclaw (Pol)
- Sparta Prague (Cze)
- Stromsgodset (Nor)
- Trencin (Slk)

4th-placed teams (6)
- Aalborg (Den)
- Skoda Xanthi (Gre)
- Standard Liege (Blg)
- Sturm Graz (Aut)
- Thun (Swi)
- Trabzonspor (Tur)

3rd-placed teams (6)
- Loko Zagreb (Cro)
- Maccabi Haifa (Isr)
- Omonia (Cyp)
- Piast Gliwice (Pol)
- Slovan Liberec (Cze)
- St Johnstone (Sco)

5th-placed teams (3)
- Chornomorets (Ukr)
- Rubin Kazan (Rus)
- Utrecht (Hol)

40

18

58 — Q3
3RD QUALIFYING ROUND
Matches on Aug 1 & 8

Cup winners (3)
* not cup winner but listed in UEFA access list as such
- Hap Ramat Gan (Isr)
- Jablonec (Cze)
- Motherwell (Sco)*

4th-placed teams (3)
- Kuban Krasnodar (Rus)
- Metalurh (Ukr)
- Vitesse (Hol)

3rd-placed teams (6)
- Asteras (Gre)
- Bursaspor (Tur)
- Club Brugge (Blg)
- Randers (Den)
- Rapid Vienna (Aut)
- Zurich (Swi)

6th-placed teams (3)
* League Cup winner
- Sevilla (Spa)
- Stuttgart (Ger)
- Swansea (Eng)*

5th-placed teams (3)
- Estoril (Por)
- St Etienne (Fra)
- Udinese (Ita)

29

33

62 — Q4
4TH QUALIFYING ROUND
Matches on Aug 22 & 29

Losers from the Champions League 4th qualifying round (10)

Either	Or
Din Zagreb (Cro)	Austria Vienna (Aut)
Fenerbahce (Tur)	Arsenal (Eng)
Ludogorets (Bul)	Basle (Swi)
Lyon (Fra)	Sociedad (Spa)
Pacos de Ferreira (Por)	Zenit (Rus)
PSV (Hol)	Milan (Ita)
Schalke (Ger)	PAOK (Gre)
Shakhter K'gandy (Kaz)	Celtic (Sco)
Steaua (Rom)	Legia Warsaw (Pol)
Viktoria Plzen (CzR)	Maribor (Sln)

Losers from the Champions League third qualifying round (15)
- APOEL (Cyp)
- Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo)
- Elfsborg (Swe)
- FH (Ice)
- Grasshoppers (Swi)
- Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr)
- Molde (Nor)
- Nomme Kalju (Est)
- Nordsjaelland (Den)
- PAOK (Gre)
- Partizan (Ser)
- Salzburg (Aut)
- Sheriff (Mol)
- Skenderbeu (Alb)
- Zulte Waregem (Blg)

Cup winners (9)
* not cup winner but listed in UEFA access list as such
- Apollon (Cyp)
- Atromitos (Gre)
- AZ (Hol)
- Besiktas (Tur)*
- Dnipro (Ukr)
- Esbjerg (Den)
- Genk (Blg)
- Pasching (Aut)
- St Gallen (Swi)*

4th-placed teams (3)
- Braga (Por)
- Fiorentina (Ita)
- Nice (Fra)

3rd-placed teams (3)
- Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
- Feyenoord (Hol)
- Spartak Moscow (Rus)

5th-placed teams (3)
- E Frankfurt (Ger)
- Real Betis (Spa)
- Tottenham (Eng)

31

17

48 — Group stage
Matchdays Sep 19, Oct 3, Oct 24, Nov 7, Nov 28, Dec 12

Cup winners (7)
* not cup winner but listed in UEFA access list as such
- Anzhi (Rus)*
- Bordeaux (Fra)
- Freiburg (Ger)*
- Lazio (Ita)
- Valencia (Spa)*
- Vit Guimaraes (Por)
- Wigan (Eng)

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A bumpy ride for Bayern

Guardiola's transition from Barcelona to the Bundesliga may not be as smooth as some are predicting, says Jonathan Wilson

In charge...Guardiola will be seeking to stamp his own mark on last season's all-conquering Bayern Munich side

As coach of Barcelona, Pep Guardiola demonstrated a healthily idiosyncratic streak within the parameters of the club's prevailing philosophy. And, as the new season begins in western Europe, the most pressing tactical question this term is what will he do at Bayern Munich? How will he react to a club that is not so steeped in those principles – and one that won almost everything there was to win last season, much of it in record-breaking style?

The basic theory of Jupp Heynckes' side was much the same as that of Guardiola's Barca, and that is one of the reasons why he should be such a good match. Bayern sought to dominate possession and pressed high up the pitch, but were more aggressive and physical than Barcelona. It's tempting to see this as an inevitable part of the evolutionary cycle; a new way of playing that redefines the game and is played at an ever-increasing pace by increasingly bulky players. In this case, Barcelona benefitted from the stretching of the game brought about by the change in the offside law that effectively made an offside trap impossible to employ as a consistent tactic.

This allowed their phalanx of 5'7" geniuses to pass the ball among themselves at great pace and without fear of being buffeted by bigger opponents. Bayern and Borussia Dortmund employed similar principles, but did so using more muscular players.

> "People expect us to win by six or seven nil, and that's just not possible"
>
> Bayern coach Pep Guardiola

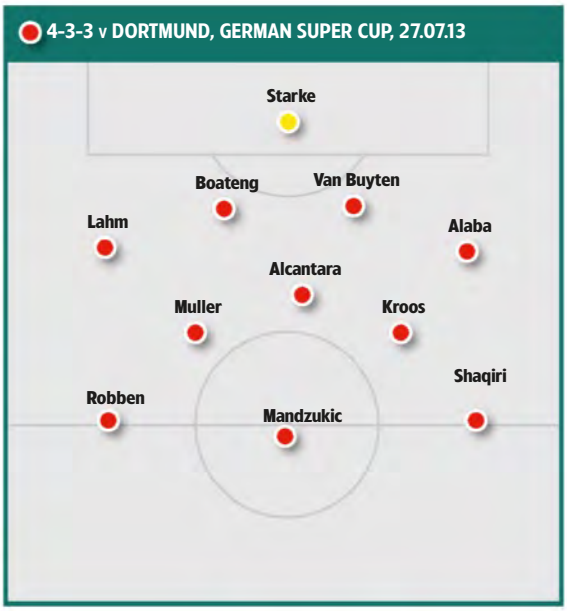
It's important, of course, not to read too much into pre-season games, but there can be no doubt that Guardiola took the German Super Cup seriously. He set Bayern up not in the 4-2-3-1 that was so successful last season, but in a 4-3-3. The distinction is not as sharp as is often made out. When Toni Kroos played as the central creator in Jupp Heynckes' side he often dropped back. And if Bastian Schweinsteiger advanced with Luiz Gustavo holding, the result was a midfield triangle that could easily turn 4-2-3-1 into 4-3-3 and back again.

Alcantara controversy

Guardiola's side against Dortmund in the Super Cup was surprisingly attacking. Gustavo, the most defensive of Bayern's midfielders, was the odd man out as Thiago Alcantara arrived from Barcelona amid much controversy.

Given his agent is Guardiola's elder brother, Pere, the risk was always there that Alcantara would come to be seen as, at best, a teacher's pet and, at worst, a dangerous conflict of interests. In the

Super Cup...Alcantara (left) and Bayern's midfield were overrun at times as Dortmund won 4-2



Super Cup, he sat in front of Bayern's back four in what might be considered to be the "Sergio Busquets role", with Kroos to one side of him and Thomas Muller on the other, in a surprisingly attacking midfield. The result was a collapse in the second half as Dortmund swarmed through time and again to win 4-2. The pendulum that had swung in favour of Bayern's midfield last season seemed to have swooped back the other way, less because of the scoreline than the way the midfield contest was so comprehensively won by Dortmund.

The biggest worry was the vast space to the left side of the back of midfield that was constantly exploited by the surges of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. That sort of space simply wasn't there last season when two of Gustavo, Javi Martinez and Schweinsteiger were in tandem. This was reminiscent of the most cavalier days of Louis Van Gaal – the man worryingly (in this context) described by Guardiola as the coach who has had the biggest influence on his career.

Triple-winner... Heynckes

Martinez seems to be seen almost entirely as a central defender and so fulfils a key tenet of the Guardiola/Van Gaal/Marcelo Bielsa school of thought, which is that one of the centre-backs should be a passer to initiate attacks.

Frank Rijkaard played this role for Van Gaal's Ajax, while at Barcelona Guardiola used Javier Mascherano, Gerard Pique and, at times, Busquets, as the distributor from deep. Martinez played the role himself at times in Bielsa's first season at Athletic Bilbao, but while he has the ability to do this, his presence perhaps slightly weakens the defensive quality of a back four that last season thrived with Jerome Boateng and Dante in the centre.

No guarantee

Schweinsteiger's position is also a cause for concern. He himself has already said that he doesn't know what Guardiola has planned for him – and his role in pre-season was restricted by an ankle injury – but there seems no guarantee that he will be a regular. He may lack the rarified technique of Xavi or Andres Iniesta, but his dynamism and ability to play either as a holder or a more box-to-box player was central to Bayern's success last season.

Other Guardiola selections – using Phillip Lahm as a central midfielder or Mario Mandzukic on the flank – have been baffling, but what has emerged is the likelihood that Croatian forward Mandzukic, whose energy was so important in springing Bayern's pressing game last season, will play a secondary role this season. Mario Gotze missed most of pre-season with a groin injury so there was no chance to see how he would perform as a false nine, which is how Guardiola is expected to play him, but Muller, such an adept finder of space, has operated in such a way and it seems likely that is how Bayern will try to play next season.

Versatile...Martinez is set to play at centre-back

It would be absurd, of course, to be too critical. No side, whoever their coach, can ever sustain the sort of success Bayern enjoyed last season indefinitely, and Guardiola is still getting to grips with his new side as the players become accustomed to him.

He showed himself at Barcelona to be intelligent and innovative, able to react to circumstance, so there is no reason why he should not find a way of playing that suits Bayern and the Bundesliga. But what we are seeing, already is that the transition may not necessarily be entirely smooth. WS

Facetoface
RUDI GARCIA

“Money makes things easier...but you still need to know how to spend it”

After being in charge of Lille for the last five years, the French coach has swapped Ligue 1 for Serie A and Roma this term

What are your first impressions of the fan culture in Rome? A little different to Lille?
Sure. It's clear that it's a place where you feel the passion of the supporters. You can't compare it to Lille, really. It's more like Marseille to the power of 10.

You have said before that a football coach is also an actor. What did you mean by that?
I think that one of the qualities a coach needs is to be able to adapt himself to different situations. He has to understand his different audiences and know how to adjust the rule that he plays.

So who is your favourite actor?
[Laughing] I like a lot of different actors! You can take different things from each one. I read a lot of biographies and articles about football managers, but also high-achieving sports people in general. There are valuable things to be learned from all kinds of different personalities; it's up to me to interpret those things in my own way. I don't have one manager who I try to model myself on, but I have a huge respect for all my colleagues who have succeeded in reaching the top level of the game. In the end, everyone needs to have their own personality. I have mine, so I don't need to copy anybody else.

How would you describe your footballing philosophy?
I think football is a spectacle and people come to watch a spectacle. At the same time, we must not forget that they will be happiest if we are winning games. But personally I think that playing well gives us the best chance to win matches – and give a good spectacle at the same time.

Your predecessor at Roma, Zdenek Zeman, had a similar philosophy about football as entertainment. Is your vision different to his?
I'm not interested in what happened in past years here. What I can say is that to win matches you need to score goals and have a solid defensive plan as well.

At Lille you won the double in 2011 despite competing against far wealthier clubs. What was the secret to your success?
Money makes things easier...but you still need to know how to spend it. For a team like Lille, which doesn't have the budget of Paris Saint-Germain, the important thing is to make sure you are always bringing through young players and making good assessments of which ones have potential. The other crucial thing is to have a great team spirit, a shared soul which makes sure you always pull in the same direction.

Can you now do something similar with Roma?
From what I've seen so far at Roma, we have a nice group of players who enjoy each other's company and work well together. From that perspective, we have good foundations to build on.

At Lille you had a "*Conseil des Sages*" [council of the wise men] made up of five or six players who you consulted on team issues. Will you have the same thing in Rome?
We will do the same here, but I haven't chosen that group yet. I want to wait until I have a better idea of how the players interact and which ones are best attuned to the collective mood of the group.

What does the *Conseil* give you as a coach?
To use a French expression, it allows me to "take the temperature of the group". We also have a better chance of achieving success if the players feel like they are leading actors in our project.

Is there a risk of alienating the players who are not involved?
No, that's not important. Five players might be part of the *Conseil des Sages*, but the other 20 are just as important to me and just as important to the daily life of the team. And the players who form part of the *Conseil des Sages* should be players who are recognised by the others for their experience, their qualities on the field and their qualities as people.

How does it work? Do you speak at regular intervals?
No, it's less formal than that. During some spells I might not speak to the *Conseil* for a month, two months at a time. But there are other periods, right after a significant incident, when I might speak to them twice a week.

One player that could expect to be part of that *Conseil* is Francesco Totti. How has it been for you to work with him?
Francesco is not only a formidable player – a "*fuoriclasse*" as you say in Italy – but also a man with great qualities outside of football. For me he is one of the very best players in the history of the sport. What I would really love is to win something with him at Roma.

There are those who believe his presence is a double-edged sword. Totti is idolised by the fans, and with such an intense media spotlight might it be hard for you to leave him out if he started playing poorly?
No. For me the important thing is to always be clear with the player. The stuff going on around the outside of the club is not important. The important thing is my relationship with the player. So with Francesco, just as with anybody else, the important thing is just to be clear about the situation.

Your first Rome derby is scheduled for mid-September. After Lazio beat Roma in the Italian Cup Final last year their fans held a fake funeral for your team near the Stadio Olimpico...
The fixture list has given us the opportunity to rise from the dead very quickly.

Interview by Paolo Baldini

On Roma fans jeering his side at pre-season training...

"Those who criticise the club and the players are not Roma fans. At worst, they are Lazio fans"

Facetoface

SAFET SUSIC

“We play to score more goals than the opposition – and it has paid off so far”

Voted Paris Saint-Germain’s best player of all time by *France Football* in 2010, the 58-year-old is now national coach of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Bosnia are top of their group, still unbeaten and are probably the biggest surprise in Europe’s World Cup qualifiers. Many people think you are already in Brazil. Do you?
Do I believe? Yes. Are we done with our work? No, not even close. I believed in winning this group from the day the campaign began because of our quality and talent. But it is far away from job done. It is actually quite simple. I am convinced Greece will win 12 points from four matches, so we must win at least nine points to be the first in the group. Crucial matches against Slovakia are on their way and we must stay focused. It’s nice that people think that we are good enough to play at the World Cup, but we’ll think about that after we win nine more points.

What do you see as the key to your team’s success in the qualifiers so far?
Quality. We have a great generation of players that have been together for some time now and everything has clicked. The other very important thing is the support of our fans. It is unbelievable that thousands of supporters follow us all over the world. Most of our matches we play in front of a majority of our fans – like in Riga, in June, when we had more than 5,000 supporters in an 8,000-capacity stadium. That is just fantastic and it is a huge motivation for all of us. We want to bring a joy to the people.

You have scored 23 goals in six qualifiers, which is more than anyone else in Europe. Is that what we can expect from Bosnia in the future – an attacking and attractive side?
I do not have any choice [laughs]! Look at my team. We have two top strikers in Dzeko and Ibisevic, a couple of very creative but also attack-minded midfielders like Misimovic or Pjanic, then Lulic, Salihovic, Mujdza. We have to play like we do now. It may sound tactically immature, I am fully aware of that, but I just think that it would be wrong to play differently. We know that we expose ourselves too much and that there is a huge risk in a way we play – using one defensive midfielder and opening up huge space for an opponent – but it would be unfair to the fans, to the game and to us if we were to suppress such a talent and such a skill. We know that it can cost us, but that is the price we are willing to pay. In the end, we play to score more goals than the opposition – and it has paid off so far.

Critics say that your group – with Greece, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia and Liechtenstein – is the weakest in Europe and therefore the qualifiers are not the true face of your capabilities. What do you think?
It is true that we had some luck in the draw, avoiding Germany, Holland and Spain. But is there really someone out there who believes that Greece or Slovakia are easy to beat? Or any other team in Europe? I don’t think a lot would change if we were in some other group. We have quality and that is our strongest weapon. We’ve played France, Germany, Brazil and Portugal in the last two years and shown that we are in the same league.

Two years ago the national team was on the verge of suspension after a series of issues within the football federation. Some of the officials ended up in jail for corruption and the federation had to appoint a new leadership. Are the dark days behind you now?
We did have big problems and they affected the national team as much as the league. In the last two years people, led by Ivica Osim, brought big changes and now we have a new [federation] president, Elvedin Begic, and things are going in the right direction. Of course, nothing can be done over night, but I think we have made a huge step forward in the last two years and we are all proud of that.

The state of domestic football in Bosnia is still poor. Would qualifying for the World Cup change things?
It would certainly help. The country is torn apart by political and economic problems, and it is logical that it reflects on our football, but I think that playing in Brazil would help in both directions. Even now this team brings people together. A few years ago you couldn’t imagine Bosnian Serbs or Croats supporting the team, but that has changed now. When it comes to the league the crucial thing is money, and if we get to the World Cup the FA will have more money to distribute to the clubs. We would invest that money in infrastructure, organisation, stadiums, academies and that would improve the league.

With a quarter of the population fleeing during the war, there are around a million Bosnians spread around the world. Ibisevic, Pjanic, Salihovic, Begovic and many others grew up and started their careers in other countries, but opted to represent Bosnia. What do you think about players “changing” nationality?
Most people did not voluntarily leave the country; it was the result of a terrible war. Now we are forced to chase players with Bosnian roots to play for our team. It is very complicated and I understand when other countries are angry, but we don’t have a choice. We are a small nation and can’t afford to lose players like Zlatan Ibrahimovic [to Sweden]. The problem will come in 10 years from now, with third or fourth generation Bosnians who are living abroad. It will be hard to pursue them to play for the country of their grandfathers. That is one more reason why we need to reach this World Cup and other major tournaments, because kids will identify with the country.

As a former Paris Saint-Germain player, how do you feel about all the changes over the last three years?
What the new owners did brilliantly was the branding of the club. Nowadays, when you mention PSG, people in every corner of the world know about them. It was not like that when I used to play. Now they are on a good path to establish PSG as one of the best clubs in Europe.

Interview by Sasa Ibrulj

On PSG and Europe...

"If they continue to work to bring in top players every year, I am convinced that in a couple of years from now PSG can become what Barcelona or Real are to Spanish and European football: a powerhouse that is capable of winning the Champions League"

Keir Radnedge

THE INSIDER

The expert view on events off the pitch

The heat is on

Pressure is growing to switch the 2022 World Cup to the winter

Climate change...a winter World Cup in 2022 could disrupt three Premier League seasons, according to some sources

Six months ago the smart money was on FIFA not taking a decision on the timing of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar until after the presidential election in 2015. Now, all of a sudden, the political perspective has changed.

Whether president Sepp Blatter became a convert just to pull one election rug out from under Michel Platini's feet seems questionable. Surely there are few votes to be lost or won from a stance on the timing of a World Cup? Indeed, it might be considered that conceding climatic restrictions on the staging of a World Cup is a snub to many long-term hosting hopefuls.

The Qataris do not mind, one way or the other. The World Cup provision is merely one building block within many in a long-term national development plan. Six months either way matters little at nine years' distance.

More and more, the Premier League is out on its own in opposing a timing switch. Most countries in the world run a competitive season from spring to autumn and the hyperactive Christmas/New Year match programme is only a British tradition – and British traditions are never flavour of the month within FIFA.

FA chairman Greg Dyke has set himself up for a confrontation with the Premier League's Richard Scudamore by advocating a timing switch, although FA general secretary Alex Horne was quick to insist that this was Dyke's personal opinion as predecessor David Bernstein had been against a switch.

The league believes – unlike Platini who claims disruption would be minimal – that a switch would impact on all three domestic seasons around the tournament, upsetting TV and sponsorship deals as well as players' contracts. The "three-season snag" has been disputed by Platini and, most recently, by Britain's FIFA vice-president Jim Boyce.

For years the Premier League and the FA have been uneasy bedfellows; one of the reasons the FA has struggled at times to progress issues has been its internal imbalance of power between the professional and grass-roots game.

The Premier League has always expected that the other members of Europe's "Big Five" – France, Germany, Italy and Spain – would line up with it because they supply a significant majority of the finest players at the finals.

But German football leaders have been shifting their position. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, chief executive of Bayern Munich and chairman of the influential European Club Association, has indicated that a winter World Cup is perfectly feasible. Indeed, Rummenigge is not averse to seeing the European season run permanently from spring to autumn.

Political nightmare

Qatar, the smallest nation ever chosen as a World Cup host, was awarded the finals in 2010 after FIFA's disastrous decision to run simultaneous bidding for both the 2018 and 2022 finals. This proved commercially successful but was a political nightmare. Russia was awarded 2018 and Qatar saw off opposition from Australia, Japan, South Korea and the USA for 2022.

Within weeks of the award, Platini – who had voted for Qatar – began to agitate. Blatter has said the issue will be on the agenda for the FIFA executive committee at its "next meeting", which means October. Most likely the ExCo will order up yet another "task force" to consider the pros and cons with a decision possibly to be taken in the spring of next year. The one decision it will not take is to order a rerun of the voting, although even altering the timing could risk legal action from any of the defeated bidders.

> "Even if all the stadia are air-conditioned, I think it will be impossible for the fans. My position will be: 'You can't play [the 2022 World Cup] in the summer.'"
>
> FA chairman Greg Dyke

Harold Mayne-Nicholls – the Chilean who was head of the commission that assessed the 2018 and 2022 bids – had cautioned about the temperatures issue

in his report which was set before the ExCo members ahead of the vote. However, the ExCo plainly paid more attention to political concerns and to the Qataris' promise to air-condition stadia, training camps and fan zones.

Switching to winter would almost certainly mean taking out all elite club football in November and December of 2022. Television companies and sponsors would oppose the World Cup being run in January and February at the same time as the winter Olympic Games. And then there is the complication of staging the Confederations Cup a year in advance...

Other constraints affecting a timing switch would include a likely refusal of lower-division clubs across Europe to halt their seasons. Indeed, they would envision a pause in premier activity as a chance to profit in terms of domestic broadcasting and sponsorship opportunities.

Switching to winter is not the only option, and Mayne-Nicholls has

Model...one of Qatar's proposed World Cup stadia

suggested that matches in Qatar could be played in the usual June-July slot but from mid-evening, when temperatures drop sharply, with the third match of the day kicking off just before midnight.

Representatives of several federations in South America, Africa, Asia and southern Europe have pointed out that their players are used to playing in very high temperatures. They believe that Platini and his supporters have approached the issue from a purely Francophone perspective.

Hence one suggestion to play the World Cup in 2022 in May and June. This would mean no mid-season disruption and only minimal timing adjustment.

Or is that too awkward for mischief-makers who still harbour dreams of seeing Qatar stripped of hosting the World Cup altogether? WS

Dyke could be a mini-Blatter

Greg Dyke will prove a lot of fun for the media. The chairman of the Football Association is a dramatic contrast to his predecessor, David Bernstein, who projected an almost visible diplomacy filter whenever tasked with answering a provocative question. Bernstein did not appreciate being a patsy for media mischief, whereas Dyke, throughout his business life and perhaps because of his own media career, has no fear of the repercussions from saying what he thinks.

Indeed, Dyke is reminiscent of FIFA president Sepp Blatter. Both are football fans, both are confident in their own abilities and both are perfectly ready to articulate their latest idea or opinion without stopping to worry about the likely resulting controversy.

Dyke, having spoken up about a need to shift the 2022 World Cup out of the summer months, conceded he had been surprised by the fuss he has provoked. As he adjusts to the demands of his role at the head of the FA he may fall over other such issues which press the headline buttons more firmly than he expected.

Anything and everything he says will be pulled and pushed from one angle or another. Hence his comment that he would not rule out appointing another foreigner as England manager will now be enshrined in the shadow debate about what happens when Roy Hodgson leaves.

That is assuming, of course, that Dyke's tenure – he has four years before hitting the retirement cut-off of 70 – will outlast that of the current England boss.

Dyke...says what he thinks

Contender...the IOC's Thomas Bach at the London 2012 opening ceremony

IOC vote matters for football

Six men (no women) are contesting the presidency of the International Olympic Committee, with the election to succeed Jacques Rogge taking place in Buenos Aires.

Devotees of the elitist Olympic movement – a royal title is a shortcut to appointment as one of the 100-plus voting members – proclaim the president as "the most important man in world sport". This is a misnomer. Nowhere in the world do you see youngsters wearing shirts emblazoned on the back with "IOC" or "Rogge."

To young sports fans, it's all about clubs and superstars – and that, mostly, means football.

But which contender would best fit football's needs and attract the vote of Sepp Blatter, an IOC member by virtue of his FIFA presidency?

The candidates are Thomas Bach (Germany's IOC vice-chairman and Olympic gold-medal fencer), Sergey Bubka (Ukraine, ex-Olympic pole vault champion), Richard Carrion (Puerto Rican banker), Ng Ser Miang (Singapore's senior IOC vice-president), Denis Oswald (Switzerland, international rowing boss) and Wu Ching-kuo (Taiwan, influential amateur boxing supremo).

Bach is favourite and has the support of Ahmad Fahad Al Sabah, the influential Kuwaiti sheikh who played a key role in popping Sheikh Salman into the Asian Football Confederation presidency earlier this year.

Blatter might back Oswald, out of Swiss sympathies, in the first round of voting but, after that, Bach would be his logical choice – not only because of his significant business connections into the Arab world and Russia.

Juventus Stadium

TURIN

Peterjon Cresswell visits the venue that will stage next year's Europa League Final

Italy will play at the Juventus Stadium for the first time when they face the Czech Republic in a World Cup qualifier on September 10, and the venue which also hosts the 2014 Europa League Final is the model that many Serie A sides are now looking to copy.

Teams such as Fiorentina, Bologna and Atalanta still play at municipal grounds that were erected during the Mussolini era, and for decades Juve's Stadio Comunale – now known as the Stadio Olimpico and home to city rivals Torino – was typical of the genre.

For the 1990 World Cup, the city of Turin built a new arena, the Stadio delle Alpi, on the northern outskirts of town. Backdropped by the Alps, the ground was shared by Juventus and Torino. But exposed to the elements and with poor visibility, it was to become one of the least-loved arenas in European football.

Although Juventus were winning domestic and continental titles at the time, their 70,000-capacity home was often only half full and the club experimented with staging the occasional game elsewhere in Italy, even leaving the mainland entirely to play in Palermo.

In 2003, the club took the unprecedented step of buying the stadium from the council, for €25million, and set about redeveloping Italy's first club-owned, football-focused arena on the site of the Stadio delle Alpi.

Giving priority to environmentally friendly and energy-conserving methods of construction – the Juventus Stadium generates heat through solar panels and irrigates its pitch by reusing rainwater – the club were able to build a new stadium from scratch for a relatively modest €120m.

English roots

Construction took two years and the Juventus Stadium – note the English name – was unveiled in September 2011 with a friendly against Notts County, who were the inspiration behind the Italian club's black-and-white shirts a century ago.

Holding 41,000 fans, this intimate venue is the perfect solution to the club's long-standing stadium woes.

A string of 49 games unbeaten at their new home ended in November 2012, with a defeat by Internazionale, but Juve have won the Serie A title in both seasons in which they have played at the stadium and they are now looking to win three titles on the trot for the first time since the 1930s. **WS**

Impressive...Juventus have won the Serie A title twice at their new home

TICKETS

Tickets go on sale 10 days before a game and non-members will need a valid passport to purchase one. There are two ticket offices at the stadium by ingresso C, one by ingresso B and three by ingresso D, E and F on Via Druento. Tickets can also be bought online from use www.listicket.it

Sectors are colour coded: green (Sud, Corso Grosseto) and yellow (Nord, Via Druento) behind the goals; blue (Ovest) and red/orange (Est Centrale, Strada Comunale di Altessano and Area12 mall) along the side. Visitors are allocated four sectors in the north corner between the Nord and Est stands, with entrance through Via Druento.

History...a museum charts the rise of the club since its formation in 1897

Environmentally friendly...the stadium used energy-conserving methods of construction

Appetising...one of the restaurants situated within the stadium complex

HOW TO GET THERE

On match days, tram 9 runs from Piazza Bernini on the metro line then back as far as Porta Nuova station. Tram 3 from Piazza Repubblica runs close by. On non-match days, buses 62, 72 and 75 take the best part of an hour to reach the stadium from various parts of the city. From Porta Nuova station, take the metro to XVIII Dicembre then bus 72.

EATING & DRINKING

On Strada Comunale di Altessano, at the crossroads with Via Sansovino, L'Elite features photos of the stadium being built, while New York opposite is filled with TV screens. Nearer the stadium, Alby and Millegusti are standard cafe choices behind the East Stand.

The best option, the Stadium, is just round the corner on Via Druento. This is a friendly bar/pizzeria with photographs of Old Trafford, the Stadio delle Alpi and the current Juventus Stadium.

If you're after a quality pre-match meal, the Ristorante delle Alpi (www.ristorantedellealpi.com) is a 15-minute walk away, just off Strada Comunale di Altessano.

Across from the stadium, at the junction of Strada Comunale di Altessano and Corso Grosseto, the Hotel Master (www.masterhoteltorino.it) is a three-star hotel, with 46 rooms, and it is not always full on match weekends.

MUSEUM & TOUR

Tours (€10) last 70 minutes and run Mon-Fri at 10am, noon, 2pm and 4pm, and half-hourly Sat-Sun 10am-6pm, except before and after matches. There are no tours on match days. The tour takes in the recently opened Juventus Museum (Mon-Sat 11am-7pm) behind the East Stand which offers a contemporary take on 115 years of club history. It currently features a temporary exhibition tracing the relationship between the club and the Agnelli family.

The stadium stands beside the equally new Area12 mall which houses the Juventus megastore and is behind the East Stand on Strada Comunale di Altessano. It is the biggest of its kind in Italy and is open Mon 12.30pm-9.30pm, Tue-Sat 8.30am-9.30pm and Sun 9am-9pm.

In town, there is a Juve store on the corner of Garibaldi and XX Settembre by the Garibaldi stop on tram line 4.

Rivals...the Stadio Olimpico to the south of Turin is home to city rivals Torino

North...Juve's new home is on the city outskirts

STADIO OLIMPICO

Situated in the Santa Rita district in the south of Turin and now home to Torino, Juventus' old ground was opened in 1933 as the Stadio Municipale Benito Mussolini. Later known as the Stadio Comunale, it was renovated in 2006 and now has a capacity of 28,140. Now back in Serie A after promotion in 2012, Torino have won the league title seven times, most recently in 1976.

Popular...built on the site of the old, unloved Stadio delle Alpi, the new Juventus Stadium has been welcomed by the club's fans

Massive...the Juve megastore is the biggest of its kind in Italy

Hi tech...the new stadium's ultra-modern home dressing room

6 of the best

Libertadores Cup stars

Tim Vickery picks the players who made their mark in this year's South American club competition

1 JO

ATLETICO MINEIRO (BRA)

When Jo and Ronaldinho teamed up at Atletico, the consensus was that the pair would make more headlines for excessive partying than for anything they did on the pitch. Instead, winning the Libertadores was redemption for both – and perhaps more so for the lanky, left-footed centre-forward than the veteran playmaker. While Ronaldinho already had a showcase full of medals, Joao Alves de Assis Silva had less to show for his talent. But as the competition got serious, Jo was the more important of the two.

In the return leg of the Final, the 26-year-old's capacity to hold the ball up with his back to goal made life much easier for his team-mates, and his ability to win flick-ons in the air was a constant problem for the Olimpia defence. By occupying both central defenders, he also opened up space for Bernard and Diego Tardelli down the flanks.

He scored in the second leg with a deft piece of opportunism – taking advantage of a defensive slip to swivel and score with his weaker right foot – and recorded his seventh goal of the competition, which made him the campaign's top marksman.

The Libertadores was the tournament in which Jo finally looked like a mature version of the highly promising 16-year-old who broke into the Corinthians first team a decade ago – and not the off-the-rails figure who, for years, behaved as if football was not high on his list of priorities.

A late call-up to this summer's Confederations Cup squad, to replace Leandro Damiao who pulled out with injury, means that a shot at glory with the national team next year might yet be a possibility for the former Manchester City and Everton flop.

2 VICTOR

ATLETICO MINEIRO (BRA)

Most of the plaudits for Atletico's triumph went to the team's exciting attacking unit, but the man at the other end of the field was just as crucial.

Victor, who was briefly Brazil's first-choice goalkeeper as the side was rebuilt following the 2010 World Cup, is usually known for the safe and solid rather than the spectacular. But without his penalty-saving skills, the Belo Horizonte club would still be waiting for their first Libertadores title.

His ability was in evidence from the first kick of the Final shoot-out when Herminio Miranda, Olimpia's specialist penalty taker, stepped up and stroked his spot-kick straight down the middle of the goal. Holding his nerve, Victor stayed put to make the save, and from that point on the initiative was with Atletico.

In the semi-final shoot-out against Newell's Old Boys it had also been Victor who brought closure to the proceedings, diving to his left to parry a shot from Maxi Rodriguez.

However, his most important save came in the previous round. Atletico looked like crashing out in the quarter-finals when Tijuana of Mexico were awarded a stoppage-time penalty. Victor plunged to his right, Duvier Riascos placed his shot centrally – and the 30-year-old keeper stuck out a leg to make the block and sent his side through on away goals.

3 Martin SILVA

OLIMPIA (PAR)

Olimpia's great goalkeeping tradition continued with a fine campaign from Uruguay's Martin Silva, whose performances caught the eye of clubs in Spain and Brazil. Perhaps the biggest mystery is that it took him so long to be discovered.

Now 30, he spent almost a decade with Defensor in Uruguay before joining Olimpia in 2011. He had played in international competitions before without ever looking out of his depth, but it was in this Libertadores campaign that he was especially impressive. Calm under pressure, he stood up strong to make important saves – not least in the second leg of the Final, where he looked the coolest man on the pitch as he saw off wave after wave of Atletico attacks with his sound positioning and sharp reflexes.

All through the campaign he came out for crosses, commanding his area with a quiet confidence that is not always seen from Fernando Muslera, the Galatasaray goalkeeper who is Uruguay's first choice.

Silva has been in the national squad for a while – he was third-choice keeper in the South Africa World Cup – but his appearance against Tahiti in the Confederations Cup was only his second cap. His displays in this year's Libertadores may see him represent his country against more exacting opponents very soon.

4 Ignacio SCOCCO

NEWELL'S OLD BOYS (ARG)

It is highly likely that Gerardo Martino's promotion from coach of Newell's to Barcelona has something to do with the way he handled "Nacho" Scocco.

In the Argentinian side's loose 4-3-3- system, Scocco excelled as both "false number nine" and genuine centre-forward, but what most caught the eye was the intelligence and sleekness of his movement; dropping deep to participate in the build-up before drifting in on the blind side or breaking behind the defensive line to latch on to a through pass.

The quality of his finishing also stood out. Of his six goals in the competition, two will live long in the memory. Against Deportivo Lara of Venezuela he glided past three defenders before blasting home an unstoppable long-range rocket, then in the semi-finals against Atletico he bent a superb low free-kick around the defensive wall.

A product of Newell's youth system, Scocco returned to the club last year after spells in Mexico, Greece and the United Arab Emirates. His comeback was an instant success and the 28-year-old has now been signed by Internacional of Brazil.

5 Wilder MEDINA

SANTA FE (COL)

Coached by Wilson Gutierrez, Santa Fe of Colombia played some of the best passing football of the tournament. The cutting edge, however, came from Wilder Medina, a skilful striker with the gift for the unpredictable who supplied the vital change of rhythm in the final third of the pitch.

Now 32, Medina's rise has been hampered by a difficult background and a suspect temperament. He admits football rescued him from a life of delinquency and his career has suffered from suspensions handed out for his use of social drugs. Sacked by Deportes Tolima, he was top scorer in the Colombian championship as Santa Fe reached the apertura Final in July and one of the highlights of the Libertadores was his goal that eliminated Brazil's Gremio.

As the midfield probed for an opening, Medina injected a burst of pace, played a quick one-two, took out two defenders and poked the ball home.

Goals like that highlighted why Medina was signed by Barcelona of Ecuador this summer.

6 Braian RODRIGUEZ

HUACHIPATO (CHL)

The burly Uruguayan striker seemed little more than a journeyman until finding his form in Chile. Having worked his way through a number of clubs in his homeland, and spells in Argentina and Peru, he joined Union La Calera two years ago, where a successful season earned him a move to fellow Chilean side Huachipato, with whom he won the domestic title at the end of last year.

With key players moving on, hopes of a good Libertadores run were not high, but Rodriguez got Huachipato off to a stunning start with a man-of-the-match performance in a shock 2-1 away win against Gremio in Brazil. He provided the cross for the first goal and scored the second with a towering header.

While the team were inconsistent, he could always be relied upon to supply physical strength, a spirit of sacrifice, direct running and an aerial threat. Rodriguez made himself a real handful for defenders and, although Huachipato narrowly failed to make the knock-out stage, his five goals established him as the top scorer of the group phase and earned a move to Real Betis of Spain in July.

FOOTBALL ACADEMY FEATURE

Manchester International Football Academy (MIFA) is designed to help players move forwards in their football career, in a training programme which mirrors that of any top professional club.
The academy accepts players between the ages of 16 and 24 years old who want to improve their technical ability and fitness. The coaching team who have managed, played and/or coached at top levels assess and evaluate each player to ensure they achieve their goals. Contact them now to book your place.

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E-Mail Address: office@mifa.pro
www.manchesterinternationalfootballacademy.com

FAB Academy Scholarship provides a 2 year football/education course giving young players the opportunity to develop in a professional challenging environment.

The course is offered to players that show potential to play professionally, FAB Academy is based at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre. The staff at FAB have a proven track record of producing professional players.

For more info www.fabacademy.co.uk

The Academy – (Located on the South-East London)
On an invitational basis only, players between the ages of 12-18 are invited to join The Academy which caters for extremely talented players who have either been released by professional clubs or are excelling within their Sunday League environment. Sessions are delivered by A Licence coaches. Professional Clubs are invited to send scouts who visit the base in SE London regularly. Each player is provided with a portfolio which includes the following; Video Analysis(individual clips), Nutritional Advice, Physiotherapy (treatment and analysis), fitness and conditioning programme, psychological profiling and coaches performance analysis. With the academy ethos based on 4 core values of Humility, Dedication, Honesty and Pride, The Academy prides itself on developing good people as well as good players.

Contact: 0208 6975211
Web: www.uniquefa.com
Email: info@uniquefa.com

Full Contact is a UK based professional football agency and sports law firm, who operate an Academy system designed to identify the best young worldwide talent and assist in developing careers at UK or European football clubs.

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or Dan@fullcontactlaw.co.uk
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The Sparsholt College Football Academy in partnership with Southampton FC is for talented players between the ages of 16 and 19.
The program aims to develop footballing potential as well as enabling players to gain national qualifications in sport. The program caters for players at various levels with our elite players affiliated to the Southampton FC "Second Chance Program".

Please contact neil.benson@sparsholt.ac.uk to arrange a trial opportunity

www.saintsfc.co.uk/documents/sparsholt-college-elite-centre-information148-833846.pdf

Ten times national champions at university and college level, Hartpury College is the ideal setting for talented football players to combine top levelfootball in a professional atmosphere whilst furthering their education.

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www.hartpury.ac.uk
Tel: 01452 702541

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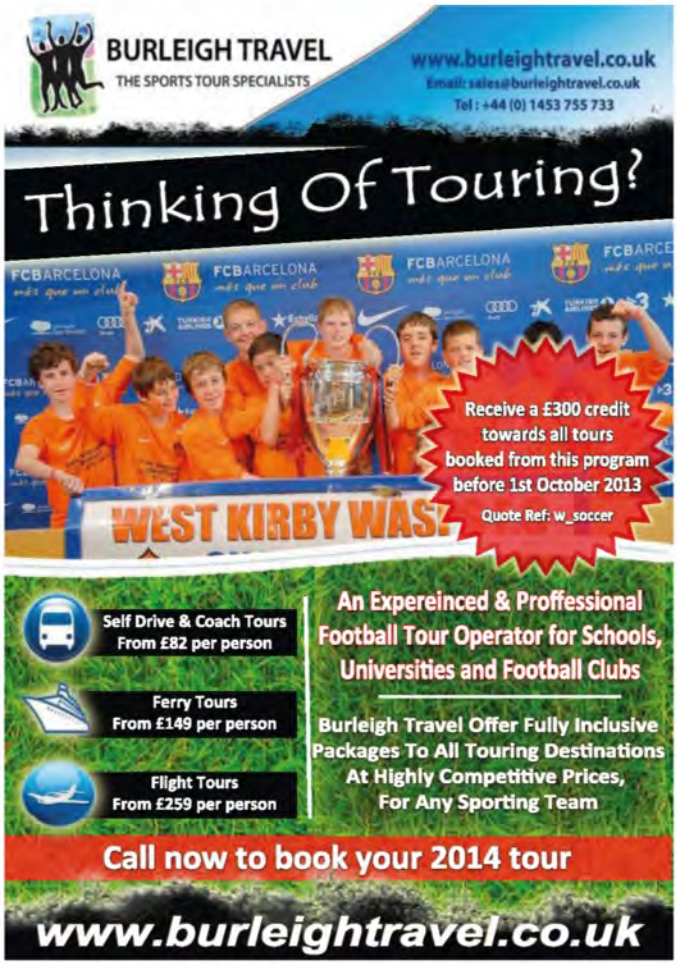

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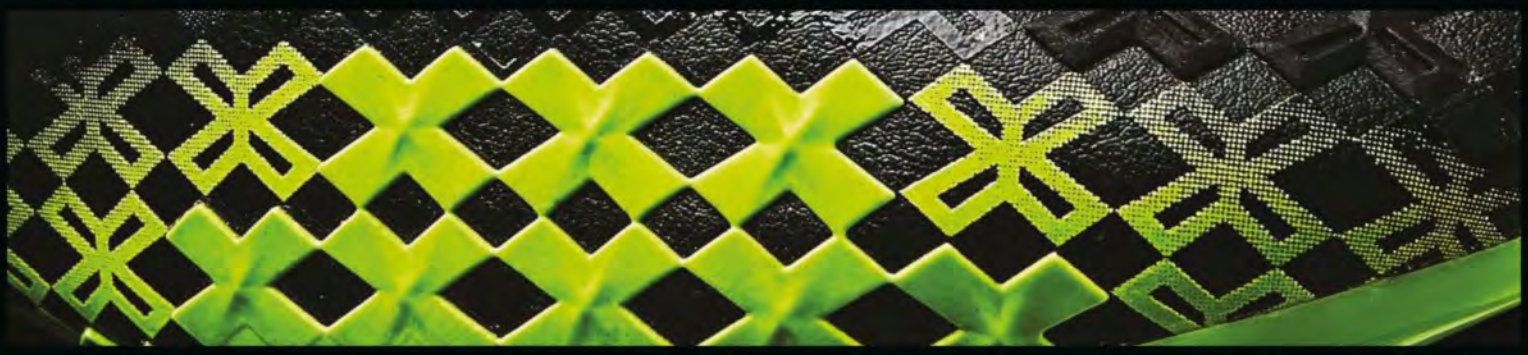

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Preliminary...Steed Malbranque (right) of Lyon holds off Grasshoppers' Toko Nzuzi in their Champions League qualifier in Zurich

Six appeal... Schalke (in blue) and Hamburg drew 3-3

On target...Higuain

ARGENTINA

Visitors feel at home

New Napoli signing Gonzalo Higuain, was one of seven Serie A-based players in Argentina's starting line-up as they beat Italy 2-1 at Rome's Olimpico Stadium.

Higuain opened the scoring and then set up Ever Banega for the second, before Lorenzo Insigne replied for the hosts.

Wrong end...Alves

BRAZIL

Unbeaten run over

The Confederations Cup winners were beaten for the first time in 11 games when an own goal from Dani Alves gave Switzerland a 1-0 win in Basle.

Luiz Felipe Scolari started the friendly with nine of the side who had beaten Spain in the Final, with only goalkeeper Julio Cesar and central defender David Luiz absent.

Scolari gave a first cap to Paris Saint-Germain's 31-year-old defender Maxwell, who came on as a substitute.

ENGLAND

Lambert's dream debut

Southampton striker Rickie Lambert scored the winning goal in a 3-2 victory over

Internationals

CONCACAF GOLD CUP

In the United States

Group A

July 7 - Pasadena
Canada 0
Martinique 1 (Reuperne 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 56,822. **Ref:** Brea (Cub)
Canada: Borjan - Edgar, De Jong, Henry, Ledgerwood, De Guzman, Johnson (Jackson 51), Piette, Teibert, Haber (Osorio 85), Ricketts.
Martinique: Olimpa - Babin, Arnolin, Cretinoir, Zaire, Herelle (Reuperne 79), Thomert (Germany 75), Parsemain, Gustan, Arquin (Coureur 80), Piquionne.

July 7 - Pasadena
Mexico 1 (Fabian 45+2)
Panama 2 (G Torres pen 7, 48)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 56,822. **Ref:** Quesada (CR)
Mexico: Jonathan Orozco - I Jimenez, Huiqui, Pereira (Valenzuela 46), Aldrete, Fabian, Enriquez, Velarde (Brizuela 74), Castro (Pena 46), Marquez Lugo, R Jimenez.
Panama: Penedo - Chen, C Rodriguez, R Torres, Parris, Sanchez, Godoy, Gomez (J Perez 84), Quintero, G Torres (Cummings 87), Waterman (Blackburn 70).

July 11 - Seattle
Panama 1 (G Torres pen 83)
Martinique 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,354. **Ref:** Castro (Hnd)
Panama: Penedo - R Torres, Chen, Parris, C Rodriguez, Quintero (Jimenez 82), Gomez, Godoy, Sanchez, G Torres (J Perez 85), Waterman (B Perez 64).
Martinique: Olimpa - Cretinoir, Arnolin, Berdix, Babin, Herelle, Thomert, Coureur (Germany 75), Parsemain, Piquionne (Arquin 78), Gustan.
Sent off: Berdix 72min.

July 11 - Seattle
Mexico 2 (R Jimenez 41, Fabian pen 56)
Canada 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,354. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
Mexico: Jonathan Orozco - Aldrete, Huiqui, Layun, Velarde, Valenzuela, Enriquez (Castro 53), Fabian (Javier Orozco 77), Montes, R Jimenez, Marquez Lugo (Ponce 72).
Canada: Borjan - Edgar, De Jong, Henry, Ledgerwood, Nakajima-Farran (Porter 61), Bekker (Aleman 82), De Guzman, Osorio, Piette, Haber (Ricketts 46).

July 14 - Denver
Panama 0
Canada 0
Att: 30,000. **Ref:** Quesada (CR)
Panama: Mejia - Dixon, Cedeno, Cummings, Chen, Sanchez, Bonaga (Godoy 88), Jimenez, J Perez (Gomez 72), Blackburn (Waterman 75), B Perez.
Canada: Borjan - Morgan, De Jong (Porter 63), Edgar, Henry, Ledgerwood, Osorio, Bekker (Nakajima-Farran 80), De Guzman, Pacheco (Ricketts 57), Haber.

July 14 - Denver
Martinique 1 (Parsemain pen 42)
Mexico 3 (Fabian 20, Montes 33, Ponce 89)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Geiger (USA)
Martinique: Olimpa - Babin, Arnolin, Linord (Abaul 35), Germany, Herelle, Gustan, Parsemain, Thomert, Reuperne (Tresfield 78), Delem (Cretinoir 56).
Mexico: Munoz - Layun, Valenzuela, Huiqui, Aldrete, Castro, Montes, Pena (Velarde 68), Fabian (Ponce 87), R Jimenez, Marquez Lugo (Javier Orozco 80).

CONCACAF GOLD CUP – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panama (Q)	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Mexico (Q)	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Martinique	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Canada	3	0	1	2	0	3	1

Group B

July 8 - Harrison
El Salvador 2 (Zelaya 21, 68)
Trinidad & Tobago 2 (Daniel 10, K Jones 72)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Mex)
El Salvador: Portillo - Garcia, Turcios, Purdy (Henriquez 87), Posadas, Ceren, Romero, Menjivar, Zelaya, Corea (A Flores 61), Burgos (Blanco 79).
Trinidad & Tobago: Williams - Hoyte, Power, J Jones, Mitchell (Cyrus 84), Theobald, Carter (Roberts 69), Hyland, Daniel (Gay 84), Edwards, K Jones.

July 8 - Harrison
Haiti 0
Honduras 2 (R Martinez 3, M Chavez 77)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Cruz (CR)
Haiti: Montrevil - Jerome, Alcenat, Aveska, Guerrier, Joseph (Maurice 55), Herold, Louis (Peguero 59), Desmarets (Saurel 75), Alexandre, Saint-Preux.
Honduras: Escober - Johnny Palacios, Beckeles, O Chavez, Garcia, Delgado, Najar, Claros, Rojas (M Chavez 52), M Martinez (Lopez 68), R Martinez (Fuentes 83).

July 12 - Miami Gardens
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Haiti 2 (Maurice 16, 53)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 28,713. **Ref:** Solis (CR)
Trinidad & Tobago: Williams - Mitchell, Hoyte (Molino 70), J Jones (David 60), Power, Edwards, Daniel (Gay 56), Theobald, Hyland, K Jones, Roberts.
Haiti: Montrevil - Jerome, Alcenat, Aveska, Jaggy, Desmarets, Constant, Louis (Joseph 90+1), Alexandre, Maurice (Pierre 80), Peguero (Lafrance 63).

July 12 - Miami Gardens
Honduras 1 (Claros 90+1)
El Salvador 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,713. **Ref:** Marrufo (USA)
Honduras: Escober - O Chavez, Velasquez, Garcia, Beckeles, Berrios (M Chavez 66), Najar (M Martinez 78), Lopez, Claros, Delgado, R Martinez (Rojas 64).
El Salvador: Portillo - Turcios, Garcia, Henriquez, Posadas, Romero (Santamaria 83), Ceren, Menjivar, Burgos (Blanco 64), Zelaya, Corea (A Flores 58).

July 15 - Houston
El Salvador 1 (Zelaya 74)
Haiti 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,783. **Ref:** Santos (PR)
El Salvador: Portillo - Garcia, Henriquez, Turcios, Posadas, Ceren, A Flores, Romero (Santamaria 64), Menjivar, Blanco (Burgos 59; Mayen 87), Zelaya.
Haiti: Montrevil - Alcenat, Jerome, Aveska, Jaggy, Louis (Joseph 66), Constant, Desmarets (Pierre 76), Alexandre, Saint-Preux (Peguero 16), Maurice.

July 15 - Houston
Honduras 0
Trinidad & Tobago 2 (K Jones pen 48, Molino 66)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,783. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Mex)
Honduras: Hernandez - Velasquez, Rodas (Rojas 62), Peralta, Johnny Palacios (Garcia 50), Medina, Berrios, Fuentes, Lopez, Jerry Palacios, M Martinez (O Chavez 42). *Sent off: Velasquez 37min.*
Trinidad & Tobago: Williams - Mitchell, Cyrus, Abu Bakr, J Jones (David 79), Boucaud, Hyland, Molino, Glen (Gay 67), K Jones, Roberts (Edwards 71).

CONCACAF GOLD CUP – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honduras (Q)	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Trin & Tob (Q)	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
El Salvador (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Haiti	3	1	0	2	2	3	3

Group C

July 9 - Portland
Costa Rica 3 (Barrantes 50, 76, Arrieta 71)
Cuba 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,724. **Ref:** Bonilla (ESv)
Costa Rica: Pemberton - Madrigal, Miller, Meneses, Umana, Barrantes, Tejeda, Wallace (Cunningham 57), O Rodriguez (Borges 63), Saborio (Ruiz 78), Arrieta.
Cuba: Molina - Malblanche, Urgelles, Clavelo, Corrales, Y Colome, Martinez, Gomez (Coroneaux 77), J Colome (Perez 69), Y Marquez, Puga (Alfonso 63).

July 9 - Portland
Belize 1 (Gaynair 39)
United States 6 (Wondolowski 11, 36, 40, Holden 57, Orozco Fiscal 71, Donovan pen 75)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 18,724. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Hnd)
Belize: Orio - A Torres (Salazar 76), Lennan (Tasher 63), E Trapp, Smith, Pandy, Gaynair, Jimenez, McCaulay, Mariano, Roches (D Trapp 46).
United States: Rimando - Orozco Fiscal, Parkhurst, Goodson, Beasley, Corona (Bedoya 65), Beckerman (Holden 46), Diskerud, Torres (Shea 59), Donovan, Wondolowski.

July 13 - Sandy
United States 4 (Donovan pen 45+1, Corona 56, Wondolowski 65, 84)
Cuba 1 (Alfonso 35)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 17,597. **Ref:** Gantar (Can)
United States: Rimando - Castillo, Beltran, Onyewu, Orozco Fiscal, Beckerman, Corona, Holden (Diskerud 57), Shea (Torres 46), Donovan, Gomez (Wondolowski 57).
Cuba: Molina - Clavelo, Corrales, Y Colome, Urgelles, Malblanche, J Colome (Sanchez 77), Gomez (Perez 66), Y Marquez, Martinez, Alfonso (Zuasnabar 61).

July 13 - Sandy
Costa Rica 1 (Eiley og 49)
Belize 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,597. **Ref:** Wijngaarde (Sur)
Costa Rica: Pemberton - Umana, Diaz, Johnson, Gonzalez, Borges, Barrantes (Castillo 59), A Rodriguez, Cunningham (O Rodriguez 67), Arrieta, Saborio (Ruiz 88).
Belize: West - Pandy (Lennan 60), Gaynair, Eiley, Tasher (D Makin 24), Smith, E Trapp, A Makin (Roches 73), Mariano, McCaulay, Salazar.

July 16 - East Hartford
Cuba 4 (Martinez 37, 61, 83, Y Marquez 90+2)
Belize 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,432. **Ref:** Wijngaarde (Sur)
Cuba: Molina - Urgelles (Perez 62), Clavelo (Lopez 67), Corrales, Y Colome, Malblanche, Martinez, Gomez, J Colome, Y Marquez, Alfonso (Puga 76).
Belize: West - Velasquez, Pandy, Eiley, Gilharry (E Trapp 67), Smith, Gaynair, D Trapp, Mariano (L Torres 49), Salazar (Lennan 70), McCaulay.
Sent off: Gaynair 80min.

July 16 - East Hartford
United States 1 (Shea 81)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,432. **Ref:** Campbell (Jam)
United States: S Johnson - Orozco Fiscal, Goodson, Beasley, Parkhurst, Torres (Shea 76), Diskerud, Bedoya (Corona 79), Holden, Donovan, Wondolowski (Gomez 76).
Costa Rica: Pemberton - Umana, Diaz, Johnson, Gonzalez, Miller (Meneses 67), Cunningham, Borges, Wallace (O Rodriguez 71), Tejeda, Arrieta (Saborio 77).

CONCACAF GOLD CUP – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USA (Q)	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
Costa Rica (Q)	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Cuba (Q)	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Belize	3	0	0	3	1	11	0

Top 2 in each group and the 2 3rd-placed teams with the best record qualified for quarter-finals

Quarter-finals

July 20 - Atlanta
Panama 6 (G Torres pen 25, 38, C Rodriguez 68, B Perez 78, 87, Jimenez 84)
Cuba 1 (Alfonso 21)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 54,229. **Ref:** Geiger (USA)
Panama: Penedo - Parris, C Rodriguez, R Torres, Chen, Gomez, Godoy (Jimenez 70), Quintero (Miller 81), Sanchez, B Perez, G Torres (Bonaga 79).
Cuba: Molina - Y Colome, Corrales (Puga 77), Malblanche, Urgelles, J Colome, Gomez, Lopez (Perez 62), Y Marquez, Martinez, Alfonso.
Sent off: Martinez 58min.

July 20 - Atlanta
Mexico 1 (R Jimenez 85)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 54,229. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
Mexico: Jonathan Orozco - Aldrete, Huiqui, Layun, Valenzuela, Castro, Fabian, Montes (Velarde 88), Pena (Cardenas 68), R Jimenez, Marquez Lugo (Javier Orozco 74).
Trinidad & Tobago: Williams - Abu Bakr, Cyrus, David, Edwards (Carter 88), Power, Boucaud (Birchall 87), Daniel, Glen, K Jones, Roberts.

July 21 - Baltimore
United States 5 (Goodson 21, Corona 29, E Johnson 60, Donovan 78, Diskerud 84)
El Salvador 1 (Zelaya pen 39)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 70,540. **Ref:** Wijngaarde (Sur)
United States: Rimando - Beasley, Besler (Orozco Fiscal 73), Goodson, Parkhurst, Beckerman, Corona, Diskerud, Torres (Shea 65), Donovan, Wondolowski (E Johnson 59).
El Salvador: Portillo - Garcia, Henriquez, Posadas, Turcios, Ceren, A Flores, Menjivar, Romero (Burgos 46), Blanco (Santamaria 46), Zelaya (Mayen 72).

Scotland with his first touch in international football, just 166 seconds after coming on as a substitute.

Theo Walcott and Danny Welbeck had cancelled out goals from the visitors' James Morrison and Kenny Miller before the 31-year-old Lambert entered the fray in the 67th minute.

"That's the way I've been dreaming it all my life," said Lambert, who has played in all four divisions of the English league and once supplemented his income with a spell working in a beetroot factory.

FRANCE

Abidal and Nasri return

Eric Abidal, who twice underwent surgery on a liver tumour, returned to international action for the first time since February 2012, winning his 62nd cap for *Les Bleus* in a goalless draw with Belgium.

Samir Nasri, who had not played for the French national side since being suspended for insulting a reporter at France's Euro 2012 quarter-final, was a second-half substitute.

The game in Brussels was the 72nd meeting between the sides, stretching back 109 years, to 1904 when they drew 3-3. Since then, France have won 24 games to Belgium's 29.

Back in the fold...Nasri (right)

ISRAEL

Captain equals record

Currently without a club, national captain Yossi Benayoun equalled Arik Benado's record of 94 appearances for Israel when appearing as a substitute in the 2-0 loss to Ukraine.

July 21 - Baltimore
Honduras 1 (Najar 49)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 70,540. **Ref:** Campbell (Jam)
Honduras: Escober - O Chavez, Beckeles, Garcia, R Martinez (Rojas 90+1), Medina, Najar, Lopez (Berrios 70), M Chavez (Fuentes 70), Claros, Delgado.
Costa Rica: Pemberton - Borges, Gonzalez, Madrigal, Diaz, Cunningham (O Rodriguez 65), Barrantes (Castillo 75), Tejeda, Miller, Arrieta (Ruiz 71), Saborio.

Semi-finals

July 24 - Arlington
United States 3 (E Johnson 11, Donovan 27, 53)
Honduras 1 (Medina 52)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 81,410. **Ref:** Quesada (CR)
United States: Rimando - Beasley, Besler, Goodson, Parkhurst, Beckerman (Diskerud 66), Bedoya, Holden, Torres (Shea 66), Donovan (Wondolowski 71), E Johnson.
Honduras: Escober - O Chavez, Beckeles, Garcia, Medina, Claros, Delgado, Lopez (Jerry Palacios 46), Najar, Reyes (M Chavez 46), Rojas (R Martinez 68).

July 24 - Arlington
Panama 2 (B Perez 13, R Torres 60)
Mexico 1 (Montes 26)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 81,410. **Ref:** Campbell (Jam)
Panama: Penedo - Parris, C Rodriguez, R Torres, Chen, Sanchez, Gomez (Cummings 89), Godoy, Quintero (Jimenez 65), B Perez, G Torres (Waterman 75).
Mexico: Jonathan Orozco - Layun, Huiqui, Valenzuela, Aldrete, Montes, Pena (Enriquez 46), Castro (Javier Orozco 65), Fabian, Marquez Lugo (Brizuela 72), R Jimenez.

Final

July 28 - Chicago
United States 1 (Shea 69)
Panama 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 57,920. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
United States: Rimando - Besler, Goodson, Parkhurst, Beasley, Beckerman, Bedoya (Gonzalez 88), Holden (Diskerud 23), Corona (Shea 68), Donovan, E Johnson.
Panama: Penedo - Parris, C Rodriguez, R Torres, Chen, Sanchez, Gomez (Blackburn 73), Godoy, Quintero, B Perez, G Torres (Jimenez 64).

Previous winners

(7 most recent)

2000	Canada
2002	United States
2003	Mexico
2005	United States
2007	United States
2009	Mexico
2011	Mexico

EAFF EAST ASIAN CUP

(East Asian Football Federation)

In South Korea

July 20 - Seoul
South Korea 0
Australia 0
Att: 31,571. **Ref:** Nishimura (Jap)
South Korea: Jung Sung-ryong - Kim Jin-su, Kim Young-gwon, Hong Jeong-ho, Kim Chang-soo, Lee Seung-gi, Yun Il-lok (Yeom Ki-hun 59), Go Yo-han (Cho Young-cheol 70), Lee Myoung-joo, Ha Dae-sung, Kim Dong-sub (Kim Shin-wook 81).
Australia: Galekovic - McGowan, North, Franjic, Thwaite, Milligan (Paartalu 46), Zadkovich, McKay, Thompson, Vidosic (Nichols 75), Duke (Juric 89).

July 21 - Seoul
Japan 3 (Kurihara 32, Kakitani 59, Kudo 60)
China 3 (Wang Yongpo pen 4, pen 80, Sun Ke 86)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Williams (Aus)
Japan: Nishikawa - Komano, Makino, Kurihara, Morishige, Yamaguchi, Aoyama (Takahashi 65), Takahagi, Kudo, Haraguchi (Saito 71), Kakitani (Osako 87).
China: Zeng Cheng - Li Xuepeng, Rong Hao, Du Wei, Zhang Linpeng, Wang Yongpo, Zheng Zhi, Huang Bowen, Qu Bo (Zhang Xizhe 54), Gao Lin, Yu Dabao (Sun Ke 63).

July 24 - Hwaseong
South Korea 0
China 0
Att: 23,675. **Ref:** Kovalenko (Uzb)
South Korea: Jung Sung-ryong - Kim Min-woo, Jang Hyun-soo, Hwang Seok-ho, Lee Yong, Yeom Ki-hun (Go Moo-yul 78), Yun Il-lok (Lee Seung-gi 60), Cho Young-cheol, Park Jong-woo, Han Kook-young, Seo Dong-hyeon (Kim Shin-wook 64).
China: Zeng Cheng - Rong Hao, Du Wei, Zhang Linpeng, Wang Yongpo (Wu Lei 58), Zheng Zhi, Sun Ke (Zhang Xizhe 64), Huang Bowen, Yang Hao, Gao Lin, Yu Dabao (Qu Bo 80).

July 25 - Hwaseong
Japan 3 (Saito 25, Osako 55, 79)
Australia 2 (Duke 75, Juric 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,458. **Ref:** Tan (Chn)
Japan: Gonda - Moriwaki, Tokunaga, Suzuki, Chiba (Kurihara 81), Takahashi, Ogihara (Yamaguchi 61), Yamada, Osako, Saito (Kudo 73), Toyoda.
Australia: Galekovic - Thwaite, McGowan, North, Franjic, Milligan, Zadkovich, McKay (Goodwin 88), Thompson (Juric 75), Vidosic (Nichols 57), Duke.

July 28 - Seoul
Australia 3 (Mooy 30, Taggart 89, Duke 90+3)
China 4 (Yu Dabao 5, Sun Ke 56, Yang Xu 87, Wu Lei 88)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,526. **Ref:** Kim (SKo)
Australia: Birighitti - Brillante, McGowan, Cornthwaite, McKay (Pain 66), Mooy, Paartalu, Duke, Nichols (Taggart 74), Goodwin, Juric (Thompson 87).
China: Yang Zhi - Sun Xiang, Wu Xi, Zhang Linpeng, Cui Peng (Liu Jianye 46), Zheng Zhi, Sun Ke, Yang Hao (Shi Ke 88), Wu Lei, Zhang Xizhe, Yu Dabao (Yang Xu 63).

July 28 - Seoul
South Korea 1 (Yun Il-lok 33)
Japan 2 (Kakitani 25, 90+1)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 47,258. **Ref:** Williams (Aus)
South Korea: Jung Sung-ryong - Kim Jin-su, Kim Young-gwon, Hong Jeong-ho, Kim Chang-soo, Lee Seung-gi (Go Moo-yul 80), Yun Il-lok, Go Yo-han (Kim Shin-wook 89), Lee Myoung-joo, Ha Dae-sung, Kim Dong-sub (Cho Young-cheol 71).
Japan: Nishikawa - Komano, Makino (Tokunaga 51), Kurihara, Morishige, Yamaguchi, Aoyama, Takahagi (Toyoda 87), Kudo (Yamada 69), Haraguchi, Kakitani.

EAFF EAST ASIAN CUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan (C)	3	2	1	0	8	6	7
China	3	1	2	0	7	6	5
South Korea	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Australia	3	0	1	2	5	7	1

Previous winners

2003	South Korea
2005	China
2008	South Korea
2010	China

COSAFA CUP

(Council of Southern Africa Football Associations)

In Zambia

Group A

July 6 - Lusaka
Namibia 2 (Shitembi 20, Jakob 44)
Mauritius 1 (Pierre 85)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Sikazwe (Zam)

July 8 - Lusaka
Namibia 4 (Urikhob 25, Gebhardt 40, 46, Tjiueza 88)
Seychelles 2 (Zialor 14, 38)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** Koto (Les)

July 10 - Kitwe
Mauritius 4 (Calambe 14, Pierre 23, 72, Pithia 36)
Seychelles 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Gomes (SAf)
Sent off: Henriette (Seychelles) 35min

COSAFA CUP – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Namibia (Q)	2	2	0	0	6	3	6
Mauritius	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Seychelles	2	0	0	2	2	8	0

Group B

July 7 - Kitwe
Botswana 0
Swaziland 0
Ref: Camille (Sey)

July 8 - Kitwe
Kenya 2 (Kiongera 84, Atudo pen 89)
Lesotho 2 (Mokhahlane pen 43, Tale 45)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Gomes (SAf)

July 9 - Kitwe
Kenya 2 (Lavatsa 5, 50)
Swaziland 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Chirinda (Moz)

July 9 - Kitwe
Lesotho 3 (Mokhahlane pen 60, Lerotholi 69, Tale 90)
Botswana 3 (Ramatlhakwane 5, 51, 79)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Nguluwe (Mwi)

July 11 - Kitwe
Kenya 1 (Olerile og 88)
Botswana 2 (Tshireletso 12, Ramatlhakwane 90)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Camille (Sey)

July 11 - Lusaka
Lesotho 2 (Letsie 23, Seturumane 44)
Swaziland 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Matemera (Zim)

COSAFA CUP – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lesotho (Q)	3	1	2	0	7	5	5
Botswana	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Kenya	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Swaziland	3	0	1	2	0	4	1

Group winners qualified for quarter-finals

Byes to quarter-finals:
Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Quarter-finals

July 13 - Lusaka
Zimbabwe 1 (Mambare 13)
Malawi 1 (Nyamupanedengu og 85)
No et. **HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Sikazwe (Zam)
Zimbabwe 3-1 on pens
Sent off: Sangala (Malawi) 44min

July 13 - Lusaka
South Africa 2 (Shongwe 47, Kekana 62)
Namibia 1 (Stephanus pen 71)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bondo (Bot)

July 14 - Kitwe
Angola 1 (Mabululu 25)
Lesotho 1 (Tale 40)
No et. **HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Gomes (SAf)
Lesotho 5-3 on pens

July 14 - Kitwe
Zambia 3 (Mwape pen 13, Chisenga 26, Phiri 77)
Mozambique 1 (Sonito 86)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Camille (Sey)

5th-place play-offs

5th-place semi-finals
July 16 - Kitwe
Malawi 2 (Simkonda 4, Ito og 48)
Angola 3 (Mabululu 11, 54, Abdul 84)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Koto (Les)

July 16 - Kitwe
Namibia 0
Mozambique 1 (Sonito 43)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Matemera (Zim)

5th-place Final
July 18 - Kitwe
Angola 0
Mozambique 1 (Sonito 44)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Nguluwe (Mwi)
Sent off: Abdul (Angola) 62min

Semi-finals

July 17 - Ndola
Zimbabwe 2 (Ndoro 14, 24)
Lesotho 1 (Mofolo 3)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Chirinda (Moz)

July 17 - Ndola
South Africa 0
Zambia 0
Aet. **Ref:** Bondo (Bot)
Zambia 5-3 on pens

3rd-place match

July 20 - Ndola
Lesotho 1 (Tlali Maile pen 22)
South Africa 2 (Masango 43, Kekana 53)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Matemera (Zim)

Final

July 20 - Ndola
Zimbabwe 0
Zambia 2 (Ngonga 5, Chongo 90+1)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Camille (Sey)
Zimbabwe: Nyamupanedengu - Zvirekwi, Mushure, Chipeta, Guyo, Mambare, Chafa, Sibanda (Sadiki 60), Chibwiro (Chitiyo 60), Chindunwe, Ndoro.
Zambia: Munyau - Chisenga, Munthali, Mtonga, Kalume (Chaila 74), Kapumbu, Chama, M Mulenga, Mbewe, Ngonga (Phiri 85), Mwape (Chongo 62).

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions (Q) = qualified for next stage

World Service

Beaten...Drogba returns

IVORY COAST

Drogba is back

Didier Drogba scored from the penalty spot in his first game for the national team since the African Nations Cup. However, he could not prevent his side losing 4-1 to Mexico – a game in which Anderlecht striker Zoro Cyriac made his first appearance for the Ivory Coast, as a substitute.

JAPAN

East Asian Cup win

Yoichiro Kakitani scored in injury-time as Japan beat South Korea 2-1 to claim the East Asian Cup for the first time. Kakitani, who scored Japan's opener against the hosts, finished as the tournament's top scorer with three goals. His Cerezo Osaka club-mate, Hotaru Yamaguchi, was named most valued player.

Having already qualified for next year's World Cup finals, Japan lost 4-2 in a friendly to Uruguay, who were described by Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni as "one of the best teams in the world".

Winner...Japan's Yuichi Komano

MACEDONIA

Barca boy's first cap

Just a month after making

2015 ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

Group A

Aug 14 - Singapore
Singapore 0
Oman 2 (Said 15, Al Farsi 45)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,849. **Ref:** Iemoto (Jap)

Aug 15 - Tehran, Iran
Syria 1 (Sahyouni 47)
Jordan 1 (Al Lahham 57)
HT: 0-0

ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oman	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Jordan	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Syria	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Singapore	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

Next fixtures
Oct 15: Jordan v Oman; Singapore v Syria.

Group B

ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
Kuwait	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Lebanon	2	1	0	1	5	7	3
Thailand	2	0	0	2	3	8	0

Next fixtures
Oct 15: Iran v Thailand; Lebanon v Kuwait.

Group C

ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
China	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Iraq	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Indonesia	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Next fixtures
Oct 15: Indonesia v China; Iraq v Saudi Arabia.

Group D

ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bahrain	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Qatar	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Malaysia	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Yemen	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Next fixtures
Oct 15: Malaysia v Bahrain; Qatar v Yemen.

Group E

ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UAE	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Hong Kong	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Uzbekistan	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Vietnam	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Next fixtures
Oct 15: Hong Kong v UAE; Uzbekistan v Vietnam.

Each team plays 6 times

Top 2 in each group and the 3rd-placed team with the best record qualify for finals, to which hosts Australia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea and the 2014 AFC Challenge Cup winner qualify automatically

FRIENDLIES

Saturday, July 6

July 6 - Lilongwe
Malawi 0
Mozambique 1 (Josimar 40)
HT: 0-1

Tuesday, August 6

Aug 6 - Amman
Jordan 4 (Abdelfattah 24, Hayel 27, Murjan 35, Al Zawahreh 76)
Palestine 1 (Ismail 49)
HT: 3-0

Friday, August 9

Aug 9 - Amman
Jordan 2 (Hayel 37, Murjan 38)
Libya 1 (Al Turabi 30)
HT: 2-1

Wednesday, August 14

Aug 14 - Tirana
Albania 2 (Rama 21, Kace 67)
Armenia 0
HT: 1-0
Albania: Berisha - Cana, Teli (Mavraj 46), Agolli, Dallku, M Basha (Kace 66), Roshi (Gjasula 56), Abrashi (V Basha 76), Rama (Lila 46), Januzi, Kapllani (Gashi 56).
Armenia: Berezovsky (Kasparov 46) - Hayrapetyan (Avagyan 71), Haroyan, Khachaturov, Hovhannisyan, Ghazaryan (Aslanyan 76), Artur Edigaryan (Papikyan 66), K Mkrtchyan, Ozbiliz, Pizzelli (Sarkisov 59), Movsisyan.

Aug 14 - Blida
Algeria 2 (Guedioura 11, Djabou 24)
Guinea 2 (Cisse 55, Kalabane 60)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Lemghaifry (Mra)
Algeria: Doukha - Khoualed, Mesbah, Bougherra, Halliche, Lacen (Agouazi 85), Mostefa (Taider 46), Guedioura (Medjani 65), Djabou (Brahimi 46), Soudani (Belfodil 46), Ghilas (Slimani 72).
Guinea: K Camara (N Yattara) - Kalabane, Mara, Sankoh (Bah 46), Sylla, L Camara, Diallo (Traore 56), Constant (Soumah 78), Conte, M Yattara (Cisse 46), Bangoura.

Aug 14 - Salzburg
Austria 0
Greece 2 (Mitroglou 39, 67)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 23,400. **Ref:** Trutz (Slk)
Austria: Almer - Garics, Dragovic, Pogatetz (Prodl 46), Fuchs (Suttner 74), Harnik (Ivanschitz 46), Baumgartlinger (Leitgeb 46), Alaba (Hosiner 74), Arnautovic (Jantscher 65), Junuzovic, Weimann.
Greece: Karnezis - Torosidis (Vyntra 77), Papastathopoulos, Siovas (Manolas 63), Holebas, Kone (Fortounis 85), Maniatis (Ninis 62), Katsouranis (Tziolis 63), Tachtsidis, Christodoulopoulos (Spyropoulos 85), Mitroglou.

Aug 14 - Baku
Azerbaijan 3 (Dadashov 5, 71, Aliyev 63)
Malta 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Aliyev (Kaz)
Azerbaijan: Agayev - Garayev (Amirguliyev 62), Budak (Allahverdiyev 46), Huseynov (Medvedev 88), Abishov, Ramaldanov, Ismayilov, Shukurov (R F Sadygov 76), Abdullayev, Dadashov (Asgarov 80), Aliyev.
Malta: Haber - Scerri (Borg 46), Camilleri, A Agius, Failla, Briffa (R Muscat 76), Sciberras (Mintoff 88), Herrera (R Fenech 62), Schembri (P Fenech 72), Cohen (Gatt 68), M Mifsud.
Sent off: A Agius 67min.

Aug 14 - Zhodino
Belarus 1 (Kornilenko pen 16)
Montenegro 1 (Vucinic 62)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Tohver (Est)
Belarus: Veremko - Dragun (Olekhnovich 80), Martynovich, Trubilo, Kornilenko (Skavysh 56), Zhavnercik (Filipenko 81), A Hleb (Volodko 56), Putsilo, Kislyak (Bressan 56), Verkhovtsov, Kalachev (Balanovich 78).
Montenegro: Poleksic - Savic, Basa (Kecojevic 67), Dzudovic (V Bozovic 46), Krkotic (Pekovic 67), Zverotic (Novakovic 84), Simic, Bakic (Kasalica 46), Boskovic (Beciraj 76), Vucinic, Jovetic.

Aug 14 - Brussels
Belgium 0
France 0
Att: 41,000. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Kompany, Van Buyten (Lombaerts 76), Pocognoli (Van Damme 79), Fellaini, Witsel, Chadli (Mirallas 70), De Bruyne (Dembele 85), Lukaku (Benteke 60), E Hazard (Mertens 73).
France: Lloris - Sagna, Koscielny, Abidal, Clichy, Kondogbia (Capoue 62), Guilavogui, Payet (Nasri 62), Valbuena (Grenier 73), Ribery, Benzema (Giroud 73).

Aug 14 - Sarajevo
Bosnia-Herzegovina 3 (Dzeko 8, 90, Ibisevic 30)
United States 4 (E Johnson 55, Altidore 59, 84, 86)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Begovic - Bicakcic, Spahic (Sunjic 46), Rahimic (Zahirovic 46), Zukanovic (Visca 63), Misimovic, Salihovic (Stevanovic 46), Lulic, Pjanic (Medunjanin 61), Dzeko, Ibisevic (Vrsajevic 46).
United States: Howard - Evans (Wood 87), Cameron, Brooks, F Johnson (Parkhurst 80), Bradley, Jones (Kljestan 70), Bedoya (Corona 63), Diskerud (Castillo 46), E Johnson (Johannsson 63), Altidore.

Aug 14 - Brondby, Denmark
Chile 6 (Mena 8, Sanchez 22, 29, Beausejour 37, 45+1, Henriquez 79)
Iraq 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Johansen (Den)
Chile: Bravo - Isla (Jara 62), Medel, Rojas, Mena, Diaz (Carmona 72), Aranguiz (F Gutierrez 62), Vidal (Pizarro 69), Beausejour (Rabello 62), Sanchez (Fernandes 62), Henriquez.

Aug 14 - Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic 0
Costa Rica 4 (Borges 47, 70, Herrera 76, Castillo 86)
HT: 0-0
Costa Rica: Pemberton (Moreira 80) - Gamboa, Duarte, Gonzalez (Acosta 83), Diaz, Tejeda (Rodriguez 46), Barrantes (Herrera 65), Borges, Y Ruiz (Nunez 56), B Ruiz (Castillo 76), McDonald (Calvo 65).

Aug 14 - Guayaquil
Ecuador 0
Spain 2 (Negredo 24, Cazorla 62)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Ecuador: Banguera - Paredes, Guagua, Achilier, W Ayovi, Valencia (Ibarra 61), Castillo (Bagui 82), P Quinonez (Noboa 51), Rojas (Saritama 69), F Caicedo (N Mina 71), Mendez (Arroyo 63).
Spain: Casillas (Valdes 49) - Arbeloa, Albiol, Sergio Ramos (Inigo Martinez 66), Jordi Alba, Cazorla (Koke 76), Javi Martinez, Iniesta (Thiago 46), Tello, Negredo (Llorente 46), Silva (Jesus Navas 46).

Aug 14 - El Gouna
Egypt 3 (Koka 22, M Salah 57, I Salah 83)
Uganda 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Abdel Rahman (Sud)
Egypt: Sobhy (Awad 83) - Fathy, Hegazy (Refaat 46), El Abd, Farag, M Salah (Samir 72), El Nenny (I Salah 72), Ashour, Temsah (Al Sulaya 46), Ghaly, Koka (Hamoudi 61).
Uganda: Odongkara (Onyango 46) - Wadada, Mwesigwa (Kasagga 46), Isinde, Walusimbi, Mutumba (Majwega 46), Guma, Wasswa, Massa (Kalanda 46), Mawejje (Mpande 64), Okwi (Ssentongo 75).

Aug 14 - London
England 3 (Walcott 29, Welbeck 53, Lambert 70)
Scotland 2 (Morrison 11, K Miller 49)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 80,485. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
England: Hart - Walker, Cahill, Jagielka (Jones 84), Baines, Cleverley (Milner 67), Gerrard (Oxlade-Chamberlain 62), Wilshere (Lampard 46), Walcott (Zaha 75), Rooney (Lambert 67), Welbeck.
Scotland: McGregor - Hutton, Martin, Hanley, Whittaker, Snodgrass (Conway 67), Morrison (Rhodes 82), Brown, Forrest (Mulgrew 67), Maloney (Naismith 86), K Miller (Griffiths 73).

Aug 14 - Tallinn
Estonia 1 (Kruglov 68)
Latvia 1 (Zjuzins 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,686. **Ref:** Lerjeus (Swe)
Estonia: Pareiko - Jaager, Morozov (Reintam 49), Klavan, Teniste, Kink (Ojamaa 63), Dmitrijev, Vassiljev, Luts (Kruglov 46), Ahjupera (Vunk 46), Anier (Zenjov 46). *Sent off: Dmitrijev 43min.*
Latvia: Vanins - Maksimenko, Bulvitis, Gorkss, Gabovs (Kamess 69), Zjuzins (Zigajevs 81), Lazdins (Fertovs 62), Rugins, Sinelnikovs (Kovalovs 56), Sabala (Verpakovskis 46), Rudnevs (Rakels 59).

Aug 14 - Turku
Finland 2 (Moisander 35, Hamalainen 82)
Slovenia 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Evans (Wal)
Finland: Maenpaa - Arkivuo (Halsti 69), Pasanen (J Ojala 79), Moisander, Lampi, Ring, Tainio, Schuller (P Hetemaj 61), Riski (Hamalainen 46), R Eremenko, Pukki (Pohjanpalo 79; Zeneli 85).
Slovenia: S Handanovic - Brecko (Milec 75), Maroh (Andjelkovic 63), Kelhar, Jokic (Struna 52), Krhin, Birsa (Bezjak 46), Kurtic, Kirm, Dedic (Filipovic 57), Matavz.

Aug 14 - Queluz, Portugal
Gabon 1 (Ecuele Manga 53)
Cape Verde Islands 1 (Heldon 22)
HT: 0-1

Aug 14 - Kaiserslautern
Germany 3 (Gundogan 18, T Muller 31, L Bender 75)
Paraguay 3 (Jose Nunez 9, Pittoni 13, Samudio 45+1)
HT: 2-3. **Att:** 47,522. **Ref:** Bebek (Cro)
Germany: Neuer - Lahm, Mertesacker (Boateng 46), Hummels, Schmelzer (Jansen 81), Khedira, Gundogan (L Bender 27), T Muller (Schurrle 81), Ozil, Reus (Podolski 62), Klose (Gomez 54).
Paraguay: Villar (Fernandez 46) - Candia, Aguilar, Da Silva, Ayala, Pittoni (Romero 62), R Ortiz, Samudio (Melgarejo 54), Fabbro (Rojas 62), Jose Nunez (C Riveros 46), Santa Cruz (Sanabria 82).

his debut for Barcelona's B side, David Babunski won his first international cap, appearing for the last half hour of the 2-0 victory against Bulgaria in Skopje.

NORTHERN IRELAND

O'Neill celebrates

A header from Martin Paterson of Huddersfield Town gave Northern Ireland their first victory since August 2011 as they beat Russia 1-0 in a World Cup qualifier in Belfast.

The game at Windsor Park provided Michael O'Neill with his first victory as manager of the national team. The 44-year-old former Shamrock Rovers boss had failed to win any of his previous nine games in charge since his appointment in December 2011.

Shock...Paterson

SERBIA

Youngsters' success

Ljubinko Drulovic's side won the European Under-19 Championship in Lithuania, beating France 1-0 in the Final with a goal from Rad midfielder Andrija Lukovic. Defending champions Spain were beaten 2-1 in extra-time by France in the semi-finals.

Seventeen-year-old keeper Predrag Rajkovic of Jagodina, who was one of the stars of Serbia under-19s' success, made his debut for the senior side 13 days later.

After appearing as a substitute for Damir Kahriman in the closing stages of the friendly against Colombia, Rajkovic was beaten by a last-minute goal from the visitors' midfielder Fredy Guarin.

Aug 14 - Budapest
Hungary 1 (Dzsudzsak pen 57)
Czech Republic 1 (Kozak 23)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Webb (Eng)
Hungary: Bogdan - Vanczak, Korcsmar (Guzmics 69), Juhasz, Kadar, J Varga, Pinter (Hajnal 46), Koman, I Kovacs (Bode 46), Dzsudzsak, Szalai (Szabics 89).
Czech Republic: Drobny - Gebre Selassie, Sivok (Prochazka 46), Suchy, M Kadlec (Limbersky 82), Plasil, Darida (Horava 58), Husbauer (Vanek 66), Jiracek, Vydra (V Kadlec 58), Kozak (Rabusic 58).

Aug 14 - Reykjavik
Iceland 1 (Sigthorsson 65)
Faroe Islands 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,815. **Ref:** Hansen (Nor)
Iceland: Gunnleifsson - Jonasson (Laxdal 46), Arnason, Ottesen (R Sigurdsson 46), K Jonsson (A F Skulason 46), B Bjarnason, Hallfredsson (Gudjohnsen 46), Danielsson (O Skulason 75), J B Gudmundsson, Finnbogason (Smarason 66), Sigthorsson.
Faroe Islands: Gunnar Nielsen - J Davidsen, Gregersen, Naes, Vatnsdal (Lokin 86), Hansson, Benjaminsen, Baldvinsson, A Hansen (Klettskard 68), Edmundsson (Justinussen 68), Mouritsen (Niclasen 83).

Aug 14 - Surakarta
Indonesia 2 (Nwokolo 31, Roby 66)
Philippines 0
HT: 1-0

Aug 14 - Rome
Italy 1 (Insigne 76)
Argentina 2 (Higuain 20, Banega 48)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 43,000. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Italy: Buffon (Marchetti 53) - Maggio (Cerci 72), Chiellini, Antonelli, Verratti, De Rossi, Montolivo (Aquilani 46), Marchisio (Florenzi 46), Candreva (Insigne 46), Giaccherini (Diamanti 53), Osvaldo.
Argentina: Andujar - Campagnaro, Garay (Coloccini 72), F Fernandez, Basanta, Di Maria (Alvarez 82), Mascherano (Maxi Rodriguez 75), Biglia, Lamela (Banega 46), Palacio (A Fernandez 89), Higuain (Lavezzi 61).

Aug 14 - Rifu
Japan 2 (Kagawa 54, Honda 71)
Uruguay 4 (Forlan 27, 29, Suarez 52, A Gonzalez 58)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 45,883. **Ref:** Marciniak (Pol)
Japan: Kawashima - Uchida (Komano 83), Yoshida (Inoha 56), Konno, G Sakai, Hasebe (Yamaguchi 75), Endo, Okazaki, Honda, Kagawa, Kakitani (Toyoda 64).
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Lugano, Godin (Coates 81), Caceres (Fucile 78), A Gonzalez (Stuani 67), Gargano (Eguren 62), C Rodriguez (A Pereira 67), Lodeiro (Ramirez 62), Forlan, Suarez.

Aug 14 - Astana
Kazakhstan 1 (Khizhnichenko 17)
Georgia 0
HT: 1-0
Kazakhstan: Sidelnikov - Muldarov, Kislitsyn, Nurdauletov, Dmitrenko, Zhumaskaliyev (Baizhanov 79), Shomko (Yurin 90+2), Bogdanov, Khizhnichenko (Ostapenko 62), Korobkin, Shchetkin (Engel 69).
Georgia: Revishvili - Kashia (S Grigalashvili 82), Khizanishvili, Amisulashvili, Grigalava, Kobakhidze, Kankava, Okriashvili (Mchedlidze 46), Targamadze (Gelashvili 68), Ananidze (E Grigalashvili 46), Sirbiladze (Dvalishvili 46).

Aug 14 - Tripoli
Libya 0
Central African Republic 0

Aug 14 - Vaduz
Liechtenstein 2 (M Christen 31, Polverino 77)
Croatia 3 (Eduardo 21, 86, Rebic 67)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,800. **Ref:** Amhof (Swi)
Liechtenstein: Jehle (Bicer 52) - Quintans, Martin Stocklasa, Frick (Kaufmann 46), Oehri (Yildiz 90), D Hasler, Polverino, Wieser (T Beck 90), N Hasler, Burgmeier (A Christen 46), M Christen.
Croatia: Pletikosa - Srna, Corluka (Lovren 85), Vida, Milic (Pivaric 46), Modric (Halilovic 66), Badelj (Vukojevic 46), Eduardo, Rakitic, Olic (Rebic 63), Mandzukic (Jelavic 46).

Aug 14 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 2 (Joachim 48, Bensi 80)
Lithuania 1 (Matulevicius 15)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 958. **Ref:** Hunter (Nir)
Luxembourg: Joubert - Jans, Chanot, Philipps, Janisch, Payal (May 78), Gerson, Bensi (Luisi 90), Mutsch, Turpel (Bastos 71), Joachim.
Lithuania: Arlauskis (Zubas 18) - Andriuskevicius, Kijanskas, Mikuckis, Borovskij (D Cesnauskis 33), Stankevicius, Kalonas (Luksa 75), Ivaskevicius (Kuklys 82), Novikovas (Mikoliunas 52), Sernas (Razulis 84), Matulevicius.

Aug 14 - Skopje
Macedonia 2 (Ibraimi pen 83, Trajkovski 86)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Vukadinovic (Ser)
Macedonia: Pacovski - Georgievski (D Ivanovski 80), Shikov, Noveski (Mojsov 59), Ristovski, Stjepanovic, Pandev (Babunski 59), Gligorov (Trajkovski 71), Ibraimi, Jahovic (Kostovski 59), Trickovski (M Ivanovski 61).
Bulgaria: V Stoyanov (Mihaylov 46) - Y Minev (Y Hristov 46), Bodurov, I Ivanov, Zanev, Nedelev (Mitsanski 79), Dyakov, Gadzhev, Manolev (G Milanov 46), I Popov (V Hristov 56), Tonev (Ognyanov 66).

Aug 14 - East Rutherford, USA
Mexico 4 (Boka og 11, Peralta 28, 45+1, Reyna 90)
Ivory Coast 1 (Drogba pen 62)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 35,671. **Ref:** Gantar (Can)
Mexico: Corona - Meza (Layun 78), Reyes, Moreno, Salcido (Torres Nilo 63), Torrado (Zavala 63), Arce, Reyna, G Dos Santos (Alvarez 56), Gimenez (Fabian 77), Peralta (R Jimenez 66).
Ivory Coast: Barry - Aurier (Drogba 46), Bamba, Boka, Zokora (Dja Djedje 46), Gosso, Razak, Sio (Kalou 46), Bony (Gervinho 72), Doumbia (Angoua 46), Bolly (Cyriac 58).

Aug 14 - Chisinau
Moldova 1 (Dedov 42)
Andorra 1 (Sonejee 16)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,724. **Ref:** Kozyk (Ukr)
Moldova: S Pascenco - Bulgaru, Golovatenco, Epureanu, Gatcan, Ionita, Antoniuc (Cheptine 66), Dedov (Gheorghiev 71), Suvorov (A Pascenco 60), Grossu (Doros 68), Sidorenco (Carp 76).
Andorra: Pol - Martinez (Clemente 79), Vales, Sonejee (E Garcia 46), I Lima, Pujol (Peppe 69), San Nicolas, Ayala (Maneiro 89), Lorenzo (Moreno 63), Gomez (Riera 46), M Garcia.

Aug 14 - Tangiers
Morocco 1 (Barrada 64)
Burkina Faso 2 (B Traore 8, A R Traore 50)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Diedhiou (Sen)
Morocco: Amsif (Bounou) - Bergdich, Obbadi (Essaidi), Jebbour (Noussir), El Kaoutari (Kantari), Benatia, El Adoua, Belhanda (Labyad), Barrada, Amrabat (El Kaddouri), Hamdallah.
Burkina Faso: Diakite - Koffi, B Kone, Yago (Yabre), Panandetiguiri (Bambara), Kabore, D Kone, A R Traore, B Traore, Mandela (Koulibaly), Zongo.

Aug 14 - Gdansk
Poland 3 (Klich 4, Sobota 59, Zielinski 60)
Denmark 2 (Eriksen 18, Braithwaite 45+1)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 34,952. **Ref:** Yamamoto (Jap)
Poland: Szczesny (Boruc 46) - Jedrzejczyk (Celeban 75), Szukala, Glik, Wawrzyniak, Blaszczykowski, Krychowiak, Kazmierczak (Zielinski 46), Klich (Salamon 86), Sobota (Mierzejewski 89), Lewandowski (Sobiech 78).
Denmark: Andersen - Jacobsen, Kjaer (Vestergaard 64), Bjelland, Boilesen (Ankersen 46), Kvist, M Jensen (Sloth 78), Eriksen, Braithwaite (Kusk 46), Pedersen (Bille Nielsen 46), Fischer (Krohn-Dehli 72).

Aug 14 - Faro
Portugal 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo 87)
Holland 1 (Strootman 17)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 29,021. **Ref:** Mazzoleni (Ita)
Portugal: Beto - Joao Pereira, Pepe, Neto (Bruno Alves 82), Fabio Coentrao (Silvio 90), Danny (Pizzi 64), Ruben Micael (Paulo Machado 46), Miguel Veloso, Ruben Amorim (Andre Martins 74), Cristiano Ronaldo, Helder Postiga (Nelson Oliveira 64).
Holland: Vorm - Verhaegh (Van Rhijn 47), De Vrij, Martins Indi, Blind, Lens (Schaken 82), Wijnaldum, Van der Vaart (Van Ginkel 46), Strootman, Robben, Van Persie (Huntelaar 58).

Aug 14 - Bucharest
Romania 1 (Stancu 44)
Slovakia 1 (Sestak 57)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,738. **Ref:** Doyle (Rol)
Romania: Tatarusanu - Matel (Nica 71), Gaman (Goian 46), Chiriches, Latovlevici, Lazar (Pintilii 46), Hoban, Torje (Nicolita 62), Maxim (Grozav 46), Tanase (Marica 76), Stancu.
Slovakia: Mucha - Pekarik, Cisovsky, Durica, Breznanik (Salata 63), Kona (Pecovsky 62), Kucka, Sestak (Depetris 78), Hamsik (Stefanik 65), Weiss (Mak 69), Jakubko (Nemec 46).

Aug 14 - Kigali
Rwanda 0
Malawi 1 (Nyondo pen 30)
HT: 0-1

Aug 14 - Barcelona, Spain
Serbia 0
Colombia 1 (Guarin 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Estrada (Spa)
Serbia: Kahriman (P Rajkovic 88) - Ivanovic (Rukavina 61), Subotic, S Rajkovic, Tomovic, Fejsa, Radovanovic (Petrovic 61), Basta, Djuricic (Krsticic 61), Sulejmani (Tadic 46), Mitrovic (Scepovic 46).
Colombia: Ospina - Zuniga, Valdes, A Mosquera (Yepes 46), Armero, Cuadrado (Quintero 72), Sanchez (Mejia 66), Aguilar (Guarin 79), Rodriguez (A Ramirez 59), Muriel (Bacca 59), J Martinez.

Aug 14 - Durban
South Africa 0
Nigeria 2 (Nwofor 49, 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Ruzive (Zim)
South Africa: Khune - Masilela, Nthethe, Hlatshwayo, Mathoho, Furman, Letsholonyane (Chabangu 72), Phala (Nomandela 60), Tshabalala, Parker (Manyama 80), Rantie.
Nigeria: Ejide - Ambrose, Egwuekwe (Okwuosa 77), Oboabona, Echiejile, Mba (Moses 46), Ogu, Onazi, Ameobi (Nwofor 46), Obinna (Musa 46), Oduamadi (Ideye 77).

Aug 14 - Suwon
South Korea 0
Peru 0
Att: 36,021. **Ref:** Abdul Bashir (Sin)
South Korea: Kim Seung-gyu - Lee Yong, Hong Jeong-ho, Hwang Seok-ho, Kim Min-woo, Lee Myoung-joo (Jang Hyun-soo 86), Lee Keun-ho (Lee Seung-gi 80), Ha Dae-sung (Han Kook-young 51), Cho Chan-ho (Baek Sung-dong 68), Yun Il-lok (Lim Sang-hyub 55), Kim Dong-sub (Cho Dong-geon 46).
Peru: R Fernandez - Rodriguez (Flores 46), Ramos, Advincula, Retamoso (Hurtado 46), Manco (Alvarez 46), Ramirez (Lobaton 74), Yotun (Ampuero 52), Cruzado, Guerrero (Farfan 67), Pizarro.

Aug 14 - Stockholm
Sweden 4 (Ibrahimovic 2, 28, 57, A Svensson 75)
Norway 2 (Abdellaoue pen 38, Johansen 43)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 13,438. **Ref:** Oliver (Eng)
Sweden: Isaksson - Lustig (A Johansson 77), P Nilsson (J Olsson 25), Antonsson, M Olsson (P Bengtsson 46), S Larsson (Zengin 65), Wernbloom (Hiljemark 73), Ekdal (A Svensson 60), Durmaz, Ibrahimovic, Elmander.
Norway: Jarstein - Elabdellaoui (Ruud 72), Hangeland, Forren (Semb Berge 46), Hogli, Henriksen (Gashi 46), Eikrem (Nordtveit 61), Braaten, Johansen, Elyounoussi (King 73), Abdellaoue (Pedersen 82).

Aug 14 - Basle
Switzerland 1 (Daniel Alves og 49)
Brazil 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 31,100. **Ref:** Aytekin (Ger)
Switzerland: Benaglio - Lichtsteiner (Lang 62), Senderos (Schar 46), Klose, Rodriguez, Shaqiri (Mehmedi 86), Dzemaili (Schwegler 75), Behrami, Stocker (Barnetta 46), Xhaka, Seferovic (Gavranovic 74).
Brazil: Jefferson - Daniel Alves (Jean 68), Thiago Silva, Dante, Marcelo (Maxwell 56), Paulinho, Luiz Gustavo (Fernando 56), Oscar (Hernanes 59), Hulk (Lucas Moura 62), Neymar, Fred (Jo 56).

Aug 14 - Khujand
Tajikistan 3 (Davronov 12, Fatkhulloev 18, Khamrakulov 90+3)
India 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000
Tajikistan: Tuychiev - Radzhabov, F Vasiev (Nazarov 63), Ulmasov, Suvankulov, D Ergashev, D Vasiev, Fatkhulloev (J Ergashev 59), Rabimov (Makhmudov 65), Davronov (Choriev 75), Tokhirov (Khamrakulov 59).
India: Nandy (K Singh 43) - N Chhetri, G Singh, Mondal, Gaikwad, F Fernandes, Hossain (R Singh 77), Rodrigues (Ralte 46), Miranda (Malswamtluanga 68), Jewel Raja (Izumi 46), S Chhetri (D Fernandes 68).

World Service

SINGAPORE

Struggling to qualify

Bernd Stange lost his first competitive match in charge of Singapore as his side went down 2-0 at home to Oman.

Goals from Qasim Said and Eid Al Farsi left Stange's side bottom of their group ahead of their next Asian Cup qualifier, at home to Syria on October 15.

Bottom...Singapore (in red)

SPAIN

Old and new

Cristian Tello of Barcelona, Real Sociedad's Inigo Martinez and Atletico Madrid's Koke all made their senior debuts as Spain beat Ecuador 2-0 with goals from Alvaro Negredo and Santi Cazorla.

Iker Casillas made his 149th appearance in goal for Spain.

Flying start...Martinez (in blue)

SWEDEN

Fourth three for Ibra

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored his fourth international hat-trick as Sweden beat Norway 4-2. The other goal was scored by 37-year-old Anders Svensson.

USA

Hat-trick hero

Jozy Altidore became the

Aug 14 - Rades
Tunisia 3 (Khazri 7, Jemaa 13, 83)
Congo 0
HT: 2-0

Aug 14 - Istanbul
Turkey 2 (Burak 7, Umut 28)
Ghana 2 (Gyan 61, 76)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Jug (Sln)
Turkey: Volkan - Omer, Semih, Hasan Ali (Caner 73), Hamit Altintop, Alper, Selcuk Inan, Sahin (Emre Belozoglu 68), Arda (Erdinc 86), Umut (Olcay 68), Burak.
Ghana: Kwarasey (Braimah 46) - Afful, Jonathan Mensah (Chibsah 60), Sumaila, Inkoom (Opare 54), Atsu (Gyan 46), Agyemang-Badu (K Asamoah 52), R Mohammed (Otoo 60), Asante, Wakaso, Adiyiah.

Aug 14 - Kiev
Ukraine 2 (Rotan 29, Seleznyov 71)
Israel 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kruzliak (Slk)
Ukraine: Pyatov - Fedetskyi, Kucher, Rakitskyi, Shevchuk (Mandzyuk 90+1), Tymoshchuk (Dedechko 46), Rotan, Edmar (Hrechyshkin 85), Husiev (Kovpak 80), Konoplyanka (Khomchenovskyi 46), Devych (Seleznyov 46).
Israel: Aouate - Shpungin, Tibi (Keinan 86), Ben Haim, Gershon, Kayal (Radi 46), Natcho (Benayoun 73), Melikson (Ezra 46), Yeini (Alberman 46), Ben Basat, Shechter (Refaelov 61).

Aug 14 - San Cristobal
Venezuela 2 (Martinez 15, Orozco 84)
Bolivia 2 (Cardozo 17, Chavez 70)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,885. **Ref:** Machado (Col)
Venezuela: D Hernandez - A Gonzalez, Vizcarrondo, Chichero, Rosales, C Gonzalez (Orozco 61), Lucena (Aristeguieta 71), A Flores (Rincon 46), Arango, S Rondon, Martinez.
Sent off: Arango 90+1min.
Bolivia: Galarza (D Vaca 46) - Raldes, Zenteno, Cabrera, Rodriguez, Azogue (Arrascaita 62), Veizaga (Danny Bejarano 55), M Bejarano, Chavez (Rios 77), Arce (Ramallo 82), Cardozo (Castellon 88).

Aug 14 - Cardiff
Wales 0
Republic of Ireland 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Kralovec (Cze)
Wales: Myhill - Gunter, A Williams, Ricketts, B Davies, Collison (C Davies 82), Ledley (King 60), Allen (Crofts 86), Robson-Kanu (N Taylor 74), J Williams, Bellamy (Vokes 60).
Rep Ireland: Westwood - Coleman, O'Shea (O'Dea 60), Clark, Wilson, Walters (Sammon 84), McCarthy, Whelan (Green 60), Brady (McClean 46), Hoolahan (Madden 69), Long (Keogh 74).

Aug 14 - Saint-Leu-la-Foret, France
Zambia 1 (J Mulenga 2)
Senegal 1 (D Ndoye 8)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 1,600
Zambia: Mweene - Munthali (Nkausu 19), Chama (Himoonde 46; Chongo 63), Sunzu, Musonda, Tembo, Mtonga, Sinkala, Kalaba (Musakanya 82), J Mulenga, Mayuka (Kangwa 75).
Senegal: C T Ndiaye (I Ndoye 46) - Cissokho (Gassama 46), Mbodj (Kouyate 46), L Sane (Djilobodji 46), Souare (Mbengue 46), Diame (A Ndiaye 46), S Sane (I Gueye 46), Badji (Saivet 46), D Ndoye (I Balde 46), Sougou (M B Diouf 46), Sow (S Mane 46).

2014 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

EUROPE SECTION

● 13 finals places available

Group A

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	7	6	1	0	13	2	19
Croatia	7	5	1	1	10	4	16
Serbia	7	2	1	4	9	9	7
Wales	6	2	0	4	6	14	6
Scotland	7	1	2	4	4	9	5
Macedonia	6	1	1	4	3	7	4

Remaining games
Sep 6 Macedonia v Wales; Scotland v Belgium; Serbia v Croatia.
Sep 10 Macedonia v Scotland; Wales v Serbia.
Oct 11 Croatia v Belgium; Wales v Macedonia.
Oct 15 Belgium v Wales; Scotland v Croatia; Serbia v Macedonia.

Group B

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	6	4	2	0	12	4	14
Bulgaria	6	2	4	0	11	4	10
Czech Rep	6	2	3	1	6	4	9
Armenia	6	2	0	4	6	8	6
Denmark	6	1	3	2	6	9	6
Malta	6	1	0	5	2	14	3

Remaining games
Sep 6 Czech Republic v Armenia; Italy v Bulgaria; Malta v Denmark.
Sep 10 Armenia v Denmark; Italy v Czech Republic; Malta v Bulgaria.
Oct 11 Armenia v Bulgaria; Denmark v Italy; Malta v Czech Republic.
Oct 15 Bulgaria v Czech Republic; Denmark v Malta; Italy v Armenia.

Group C

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	6	5	1	0	22	7	16
Austria	6	3	2	1	15	5	11
Sweden	6	3	2	1	11	7	11
Rep Ireland	6	3	2	1	12	10	11
Kazakhstan	6	0	1	5	2	15	1
Faroe Islands	6	0	0	6	2	20	0

Remaining games
Sep 6 Germany v Austria; Kazakhstan v Faroe Islands; Republic of Ireland v Sweden.
Sep 10 Austria v Republic of Ireland; Faroe Islands v Germany; Kazakhstan v Sweden.
Oct 11 Faroe Islands v Kazakhstan; Germany v Republic of Ireland; Sweden v Austria.
Oct 15 Faroe Islands v Austria; Republic of Ireland v Kazakhstan; Sweden v Germany.

Group D

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	6	6	0	0	20	2	18
Hungary	6	3	2	1	13	8	11
Romania	6	3	1	2	10	10	10
Turkey	6	2	1	3	7	7	7
Estonia	6	2	0	4	3	9	6
Andorra	6	0	0	6	0	17	0

Remaining games
Sep 6 Estonia v Holland; Romania v Hungary; Turkey v Andorra.
Sep 10 Andorra v Holland; Hungary v Estonia; Romania v Turkey.
Oct 11 Andorra v Romania; Estonia v Turkey; Holland v Hungary.
Oct 15 Hungary v Andorra; Romania v Estonia; Turkey v Holland.

Group E

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	6	4	2	0	8	1	14
Albania	6	3	1	2	7	6	10
Iceland	6	3	0	3	8	9	9
Norway	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Slovenia	6	2	0	4	8	10	6
Cyprus	6	1	1	4	4	9	4

Remaining games
Sep 6 Norway v Cyprus; Slovenia v Albania; Switzerland v Iceland.
Sep 10 Cyprus v Slovenia; Iceland v Albania; Norway v Switzerland.
Oct 11 Albania v Switzerland; Iceland v Cyprus; Slovenia v Norway.
Oct 15 Cyprus v Albania; Norway v Iceland; Switzerland v Slovenia.

Group F

Aug 14 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 1 (Paterson 43)
Russia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,178. **Ref:** Hagen (Nor)
Northern Ireland: Carroll - Hughes, McAuley, Cathcart, D Lafferty, McGinn (C Evans 82), Norwood, Davis, Ferguson, Ward, Paterson (Grigg 86).
Russia: Akinfeev - Anyukov, Ignashevich, V Berezutsky, Kombarov, Bystrov, Shirokov, Denisov, Faizulin, Dzagoev (Cheryshev 46; Samedov 52), Kerzhakov (Dzyuba 46).

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	7	4	2	1	12	6	14
Russia	6	4	0	2	8	2	12
Israel	6	3	2	1	15	8	11
N Ireland	6	1	3	2	4	7	6
Azerbaijan	7	0	4	3	3	9	4
Luxembourg	6	0	3	3	3	13	3

Remaining games
Sep 6 Northern Ireland v Portugal; Russia v Luxembourg.
Sep 7 Israel v Azerbaijan.
Sep 10 Luxembourg v Northern Ireland; Russia v Israel.
Oct 11 Azerbaijan v Northern Ireland; Luxembourg v Russia; Portugal v Israel.
Oct 15 Azerbaijan v Russia; Israel v Northern Ireland; Portugal v Luxembourg.

Group G

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bosnia-Herz	6	5	1	0	23	3	16
Greece	6	4	1	1	7	4	13
Slovakia	6	2	3	1	7	5	9
Lithuania	6	1	2	3	4	8	5
Latvia	6	1	1	4	6	14	4
Liechtenstein	6	0	2	4	3	16	2

Remaining games
Sep 6 Bosnia-Herzegovina v Slovakia; Latvia v Lithuania; Liechtenstein v Greece.
Sep 10 Greece v Latvia; Lithuania v Liechtenstein; Slovakia v Bosnia-Herzegovina.
Oct 11 Bosnia-Herzegovina v Liechtenstein; Greece v Slovakia; Lithuania v Latvia.
Oct 15 Greece v Liechtenstein; Latvia v Slovakia; Lithuania v Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Group H

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Montenegro	7	4	2	1	14	7	14
England	6	3	3	0	21	3	12
Ukraine	6	3	2	1	10	4	11
Poland	6	2	3	1	12	7	9
Moldova	7	1	2	4	4	11	5
San Marino	6	0	0	6	0	29	0

Remaining games
Sep 6 England v Moldova; Poland v Montenegro; Ukraine v San Marino.
Sep 10 San Marino v Poland; Ukraine v England.
Oct 11 England v Montenegro; Moldova v San Marino; Ukraine v Poland.
Oct 15 England v Poland; Montenegro v Moldova; San Marino v Ukraine.

Group I

WC QUALS: EUROPE – GROUP I	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	5	3	2	0	8	2	11
France	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
Finland	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Georgia	5	1	1	3	3	7	4
Belarus	6	1	1	4	4	10	4

Remaining games
Sep 6 Finland v Spain; Georgia v France.
Sep 10 Belarus v France; Georgia v Finland.
Oct 11 Spain v Belarus.
Oct 15 France v Finland; Spain v Georgia.

Each team plays 10 times (except Gp I, 8 times)

● The 9 group winners qualify for the finals
● The 8 runners-up with the best record[1] will be paired in 4 2-leg play-offs (Nov 15 & Nov 19), the winners of which will also qualify for the finals
[1]Determined by number of points gained in the games against the teams finishing 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th in the respective groups

first player to score in five consecutive games for the US with his hat-trick against Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Sunderland striker, who struck three times in 27 minutes, is only the third player to have scored more than one treble for the senior side.

The US were trailing 2-0 to Bosnia at half-time before coming back to win 4-3 and extend their unbeaten run to a national record of 12 games.

Former Iceland under-21 international Aron Johannsson, a striker who plays for AZ in Holland, made his debut for the US in the game. Johannsson, who is now 22, was born in Alabama but moved back to his parents' native Iceland when he was three.

Also gaining their first senior caps in the Bosnia game were defender John Anthony Brooks of Hertha Berlin and Munich 1860 striker Bobby Wood.

Although the USA won this year's Gold Cup, they have not automatically qualified in the 2017 Confederations Cup. The result of the 2015 Gold Cup will also be taken into account, and if a team other than the United States wins that one then a single-game play-off will decide who goes to Russia.

Triple...Altidore (right)

YEMEN

Defender dies

International defender Omar Al Sayed was killed in a car accident on his way to training. The 26-year-old played for his country in the 2014 World Cup qualifier against Iraq.

SOUTH AMERICA SECTION

● 5.5 finals places available, one of which goes automatically to hosts Brazil

(single, round-robin group)

WC QUALS: SOUTH AMERICA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	13	7	5	1	25	9	26
Colombia	12	7	2	3	21	7	23
Ecuador	12	6	3	3	17	12	21
Chile	13	7	0	6	21	21	21
Uruguay	12	4	4	4	18	21	16
Venezuela	13	4	4	5	10	14	16
Peru	12	4	2	6	12	17	14
Bolivia	13	2	4	7	15	24	10
Paraguay	12	2	2	8	9	23	8

Remaining games
Sep 6 Chile v Venezuela; Colombia v Ecuador; Paraguay v Bolivia; Peru v Uruguay.
Sep 10 Bolivia v Ecuador; Paraguay v Argentina; Uruguay v Colombia; Venezuela v Peru.
Oct 11 Argentina v Peru; Colombia v Chile; Ecuador v Uruguay; Venezuela v Paraguay.
Oct 15 Chile v Ecuador; Paraguay v Colombia; Peru v Bolivia; Uruguay v Argentina.

Each team plays 16 times

● The top 4 qualify for the finals
● The 5th-placed team will meet the winner of the Asia section play-off in a 2-leg play-off (Nov 15 & Nov 19) for a place in the finals

CONCACAF SECTION

● 3.5 finals places available

4th round

(single, round-robin group)

WC QUALS: CONCACAF – 4TH ROUND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	6	4	1	1	7	3	13
Costa Rica	6	3	2	1	7	3	11
Mexico	6	1	5	0	3	2	8
Honduras	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
Panama	6	1	3	2	5	7	6
Jamaica	6	0	2	4	2	8	2

Remaining games
Sep 6 Costa Rica v USA; Mexico v Honduras; Panama v Jamaica.
Sep 10 Honduras v Panama; Jamaica v Costa Rica; USA v Mexico.
Oct 11 Honduras v Costa Rica; Mexico v Panama; USA v Jamaica.
Oct 15 Costa Rica v Mexico; Jamaica v Honduras; Panama v USA.

Each team plays 10 times

● The top 3 qualify for the finals
● The 4th-placed team will meet New Zealand (the Oceania section winners) in a 2-leg play-off (Nov 15 & Nov 19) for a place in the finals

AFRICA SECTION

● 5 finals places available

2nd round

Group A

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 2ND ROUND: GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ethiopia[1]	5	3	1	1	6	5	10
South Africa	5	2	2	1	8	4	8
Botswana[1]	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Cent Af Rep	5	1	0	4	4	10	3

[1]Ethiopia beat Botswana 2-1 on June 8 but have had the game awarded 3-0 against them because they fielded an ineligible player

Remaining games
Sep 7 Central African Republic v Ethiopia; South Africa v Botswana.

Group B

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 2ND ROUND: GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	5	3	2	0	10	6	11
Cape Verde Is[1]	5	3	0	2	9	4	9
Sierra Leone	5	1	2	2	7	8	5
Eq Guinea[1]	5	0	2	3	4	12	2

[1]Equatorial Guinea beat Cape Verde 4-3 on Mar 24 but have had the game awarded 3-0 against them because they fielded an ineligible player; Equatorial Guinea fielded the same ineligible player in their 2-1 defeat by Cape Verde on June 8 – the game has now been awarded as a 3-0 win to Cape Verde

Remaining games
Sep 7 Sierra Leone v Equatorial Guinea; Tunisia v Cape Verde Islands.

Group C

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 2ND ROUND: GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast (Q)	5	4	1	0	14	4	13
Morocco	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
Tanzania	5	2	0	3	8	10	6
Gambia	5	0	1	4	2	11	1

Remaining games
Sep 7 Gambia v Tanzania; Ivory Coast v Morocco.

Group D

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 2ND ROUND: GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	5	4	0	1	16	2	12
Zambia	5	3	2	0	10	2	11
Sudan	5	0	2	3	2	11	2
Lesotho	5	0	2	3	1	14	2

Remaining games
Sep 6 Ghana v Zambia.
Sep 8 Sudan v Lesotho.

Group E

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 2ND ROUND: GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Congo	5	3	1	1	5	1	10
Burkina Faso	5	3	0	2	6	4	9
Gabon	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Niger	5	1	0	4	4	10	3

Remaining games
Sep 7 Burkina Faso v Gabon; Niger v Congo.

Group F

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 2ND ROUND: GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	5	2	3	0	5	3	9
Malawi	5	1	4	0	4	3	7
Namibia	5	1	2	2	2	3	5
Kenya	5	0	3	2	3	5	3

Remaining games
Sep 7 Kenya v Namibia; Nigeria v Malawi.

Group G

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 2ND ROUND: GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt (Q)	5	5	0	0	12	5	15
Guinea	5	3	1	1	10	4	10
Mozambique	5	0	2	3	1	9	2
Zimbabwe	5	0	1	4	3	8	1

Remaining games
Sep 8 Zimbabwe v Mozambique.
Sep 10 Egypt v Guinea.

Group H

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 2ND ROUND: GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria (Q)	5	4	0	1	12	4	12
Mali	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Benin	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Rwanda	5	0	2	3	3	9	2

Remaining games
Sep 8 Benin v Rwanda.
Sep 10 Algeria v Mali.

Group I

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 2ND ROUND: GROUP I	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon[1]	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Libya	5	2	3	0	5	2	9
DR Congo	5	1	3	1	2	1	6
Togo[1]	5	0	1	4	2	10	1

[1]Togo beat Cameroon 2-0 on June 9 but have had the game awarded 3-0 against them because they fielded an ineligible player

Remaining games
Sep 8 Cameroon v Libya; Togo v DR Congo.

Group J

WC QUALS: AFRICA – 2ND ROUND: GROUP J	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal	5	2	3	0	8	4	9
Uganda	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
Angola	5	0	4	1	4	5	4
Liberia	5	1	1	3	3	6	4

Remaining games
Sep 7 Angola v Liberia; Senegal v Uganda.

Each team plays 6 times

● The group winners qualify for the 3rd round

3rd round

● The 10 qualifiers will be paired in 5 2-leg ties (to be played between Oct 11 & Nov 19), the winners of which will qualify for the finals

ASIA SECTION

● 4.5 finals places available

4th round

Group A

WC QUALS: ASIA – 4TH ROUND: GP A – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IRAN (F)	8	5	1	2	8	2	16
STH KOREA (F)	8	4	2	2	13	7	14
Uzbekistan (QP)	8	4	2	2	11	6	14
Qatar	8	2	1	5	5	13	7
Lebanon	8	1	2	5	3	12	5

Group B

WC QUALS: ASIA – 4TH ROUND: GP B – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JAPAN (F)	8	5	2	1	16	5	17
AUSTRALIA (F)	8	3	4	1	12	7	13
Jordan (QP)	8	3	1	4	7	16	10
Oman	8	2	3	3	7	10	9
Iraq	8	1	2	5	4	8	5

● The top 2 in both groups have qualified for the finals
● The 2 3rd-placed teams (Uzbekistan & Jordan) will meet in a 2-leg play-off (Sep 6 & Sep 10), the winner of which will meet the 5th-placed South American team in a 2-leg play-off (Nov 15 & Nov 19) for a place in the finals

OCEANIA SECTION

● 0.5 finals places available

3rd round

WC QUALS: OCEANIA – 3RD ROUND – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N Zealand (QP)	6	6	0	0	17	2	18
New Caledonia	6	4	0	2	17	6	12
Tahiti	6	1	0	5	2	12	3
Solomon Is	6	1	0	5	5	21	3

● New Zealand are the Oceania section winners and will meet the 4th-placed CONCACAF team in a 2-leg play-off (Nov 15 & Nov 19) for a place in the finals

CONFIRMED FINALISTS TO DATE

Brazil (hosts)
Australia
Iran
Japan
South Korea

● *The World Cup finals draw will be held on December 6, 2013 in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil*

KEY TO WORLD CUP QUALIFYING TABLES
(F) = qualified for finals
(Q) = qualified for next stage
(QP) = qualified for play-off

WORLD CUP: AFRICAN QUALIFIERS

Seven play-off places up for grabs

KEY DATES

Last round of group games
September 6, 7, 8 and 10

Third round play-offs
October 11 to 15 and November 15 to 19

Although five teams had seemingly booked their places in the play-off stage of Africa's World Cup qualifying campaign after the penultimate round of group games in June, that figure is now back down to three going into the last round of matches. Seven of the 10 places remain up for grabs.

Ethiopia and Tunisia both had their progress checked by the folly of teams fielding ineligible players.

In the case of Ethiopia, it was all their own doing. Their previously unassailable lead in Group A was stripped of three points because Minyahil Teshome played in the 2-1 win in Botswana when he should have been serving a one-match suspension due to an accumulation of cautions.

Ethiopia now lead South Africa by two points ahead of their away game against the Central African Republic. Should Ethiopia lose, South Africa can leapfrog them into first place by beating Botswana in Durban. If Botswana win and Ethiopia lose, Botswana will top the group.

In Tunisia's case, they have been made to wait to confirm their progress because their closest rivals in Group B, Cape Verde Islands, were handed two 3-0 wins over Equatorial Guinea, who used an ineligible player, Emilio Nsue, in both earlier games. Cape Verde Islands are now two points behind Tunisia, who they visit on September 6.

Algeria (Group H), Egypt (Group G) and Ivory Coast (Group C) are already in the play-offs draw, which will take place in Cairo on September 16.

Ghana need a draw

In Group D, Ghana lead Zambia by one point and need only to draw against the 2012 African champions to go through.

There are three countries still in with a shout in Group E after Congo threw away what looked like an unbeatable lead by losing their last two games. They still lead Burkina Faso by a point, but failure to win in Niger could see the winner of Burkina Faso and Gabon advance.

Vital...Biadgelegn Elias (left) helped Ethiopia come from behind to beat South Africa 2-1

Nigeria have nine points to Malawi's seven in Group F and host the meeting between the pair in Calabar. It should be a routine assignment for Stephen Keshi's African champions, although they have done little to impress since taking the continental title in February. Such is the confidence of Malawi's caretaker coach, Tom Saintfiet, that he has said he will forfeit his win bonus if the team is victorious in Nigeria.

Having had their suspension lifted, Cameroon are now able to host Libya in a winner-takes-all clash in Group I on September 8.

Senegal are top of Group J and need only a draw against Uganda, who are one point behind them. The match is being staged in neutral Morocco because Senegal are currently banned from playing on home soil.

The final line-up of 10 will be divided into two pots, based on the latest FIFA rankings, and drawn into five play-off ties, which will be staged over two legs. The five winners will automatically qualify for Brazil next year.

Mark Gleeson

Decider...Uganda's Brian Umony is watched closely by Roger Gomis (left) and Papa Gueye of Senegal in a 1-1 draw earlier in the campaign

WorldSoccer

COMING NEXT MONTH...

EUROPE SPECIAL

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

● Team by team, every club analysed, every player profiled

EUROPA LEAGUE

● Exclusive 48-team guide

October issue on sale September 20

ALBANIA

New European record

Kukesi's 2-0 win at home to Metalurh Donetsk in the first leg of their Europa League third qualifying round game made it five games without defeat in their debut European campaign and set a record for the longest unbeaten record of any Albanian side in Europe.

Despite losing 1-0 in the return, Kukesi reached the play-off round in their debut season of continental action.

FRANCE

Points taken back

The two-point penalty imposed on Monaco following violent incidents involving supporters during last season's Ligue 2 title celebrations has been cancelled on appeal.

GEORGIA

Dinamo's six and out

Dinamo Tbilisi's 6-1 win at home to EB/Streymur of the Faroe Islands in the Champions League second qualifying round was their biggest-ever win in European competition.

Dinamo won 9-1 on aggregate but then went out to Steaua Bucharest in the next round.

Celebration...Hertha's return

GERMANY

Back with a bang

Hertha Berlin celebrated their return to the top flight with a 6-1 win at home to Eintracht Frankfurt on the opening day of the season.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang of Borussia Dortmund became only the sixth player in Bundesliga history to score a hat-trick on his league debut.

Club Results

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2nd qualifying round

1st legs - July 16/17; 2nd legs - July 23/24

BATE Borisov (Bls) v Shakhter Karagandy (Kaz)
0-1, 0-1 (agg 0-2)
Birkirkara (Mlt) v Maribor (Sln) 0-0, 0-2 (agg 0-2)
Cliftonville (Nlr) v Celtic (Sco) 0-3, 0-2 (agg 0-5)
Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) v EB/Streymur (Far)
6-1, 3-1 (agg 9-2)
Ekranas (Lit) v FH Hafnarfjordur (Ice)
0-1, 1-2 (agg 1-3)
Elfsborg (Swe) v Daugava Daugavpils (Lat)
7-1, 4-0 (agg 11-1)
Fola Esch (Lux) v Dinamo Zagreb (Cro)
0-5, 0-1 (agg 0-6)
Gyor (Hun) v Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr)
0-2, 1-2 (agg 1-4)
HJK Helsinki (Fin) v Nomme Kalju (Est)
0-0, 1-2 (agg 1-2)
Neftchi (Aze) v Skenderbeu (Alb)
0-0, 0-1 (aet) (agg 0-1)
The New Saints (Wal) v Legia Warsaw (Pol)
1-3, 0-1 (agg 1-4)
Sheriff (Mol) v Sutjeska (Mne) 1-1, 5-0 (agg 6-1)
Shirak (Arm) v Partizan Belgrade (Ser)
1-1, 0-0 (agg 1-1, Partizan on away goals)
Sligo Rovers (Rol) v Molde (Nor) 0-1, 0-2 (agg 0-3)
Slovan Bratislava (Slk) v Ludogorets (Bul)
2-1, 0-3 (agg 2-4)
Steaua Bucharest (Rom) v Vardar Skopje (Mac)
3-0, 2-1 (agg 5-1)
Viktoria Plzen (CzR) v Zeljeznicar (Bos)
4-3, 2-1 (agg 6-4)

3rd qualifying round

1st legs - July 30/31; 2nd legs - Aug 6/7
(teams with country abbreviation entered at this stage)

APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) v Maribor
1-1, 0-0 (agg 1-1, Maribor on away goals)
Austria Vienna (Aut) v FH Hafnarfjordur
1-0, 0-0 (agg 1-0)
Basle (Swi) v Maccabi Tel Aviv 1-0, 3-3 (agg 4-3)
Celtic v Elfsborg 1-0, 0-0 (agg 1-0)
Dinamo Tbilisi v Steaua Bucharest
0-2, 1-1 (agg 1-3)
Dinamo Zagreb v Sheriff 1-0, 3-0 (agg 4-0)
Ludogorets v Partizan Belgrade 2-1, 1-0 (agg 3-1)
Lyon (Fra) v Grasshopper (Swi) 1-0, 1-0 (agg 2-0)
Molde v Legia Warsaw
1-1, 0-0 (agg 1-1, Legia on away goals)
Nomme Kalju v Viktoria Plzen 0-4, 2-6 (agg 2-10)
Nordsjaelland (Den) v Zenit St Petersburg (Rus)
0-1, 0-5 (agg 0-6)
PAOK Salonika (Gre) v Metalist Kharkiv (Ukr)
0-2, 1-1 (agg 1-3)
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) v Zulte Waregem (Blg)
2-0, 3-0 (agg 5-0)
Salzburg (Aut) v Fenerbahce (Tur) 1-1, 1-3 (agg 2-4)
Shakhter Karagandy v Skenderbeu
3-0, 2-3 (agg 5-3)

EUROPA LEAGUE

2nd qualifying round

1st legs - July 16/18; 2nd legs - July 25

Anorthosis (Cyp) v Gefle (Swe) 3-0, 0-4 (agg 3-4)
Astra (Rom) v Omonia Nicosia (Cyp)
1-1, 2-1 (agg 3-2)
Beroe (Bul) v Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 1-4, 2-2 (agg 3-6)
Breidablik (Ice) v Sturm Graz (Aut) 0-0, 1-0 (agg 1-0)
Chornomorets (Ukr) v Dacia Chisinau (Mol)
2-0, 1-2 (agg 3-2)
Differdange (Lux) v Utrecht (Hol) 2-1, 3-3 (agg 5-4)
Dila (Geo) v AaB Aalborg (Den) 3-0, 0-0 (agg 3-0)
Dinamo Minsk (Bls) v Lokomotiva (Cro)
1-2, 3-2 (agg 4-4, Dinamo Minsk on away goals)
Hajduk Split (Cro) v Turnovo (Mac) 2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2)
Hodd (Nor) v Aktobe (Kaz) 1-0, 0-2 (agg 1-2)
Honka (Fin) v Lech Poznan (Pol) 1-3, 1-2 (agg 2-5)
IFK Gothenburg (Swe) v Trencin (Slk)
0-0, 1-2 (agg 1-2)
Irtysh Pavlodar (Kaz) v Siroki Brijeg (Bos)
3-2, 0-2 (agg 3-4)
Jagodina (Ser) v Rubin Kazan (Rus) 2-3, 0-1 (agg 2-4)
KR Reykjavik (Ice) v Standard Liege (Blg)
1-3, 1-3 (agg 2-6)
Kukesi (Alb) v Sarajevo (Bos) 3-2, 0-0 (agg 3-2)
Levadia Tallinn (Est) v Pandurii (Rom)
0-0, 0-4 (agg 0-4)
Maccabi Haifa (Isr) v Khazar Lankaran (Aze)
2-0, 8-0 (agg 10-0)
Malmo (Swe) v Hibernian (Sco) 2-0, 7-0 (agg 9-0)
Mladost Podgorica (Mne) v Senica (Slk)
2-2, 1-0 (agg 3-2)
Olimpija Ljubljana (Sln) v Zilina (Slk)
3-1, 0-2 (agg 3-3, Zilina on away goals)
Petrolul (Rom) v Vikingur (Far) 3-0, 4-0 (agg 7-0)
Qarabag (Aze) v Piast Gliwice (Pol)
2-1, 2-2 (aet) (agg 4-3)
Red Star Belgrade (Ser) v IBV Vestmannaeyjar (Ice)
2-0, 0-0 (agg 2-0)
Rijeka (Cro) v Prestatyn (Wal) 5-0, 3-0 (agg 8-0)
Rosenborg (Nor) v St Johnstone (Sco)
0-1, 1-1 (agg 1-2)
Shakhtyor (Bls) v Milsami (Mol)
1-1, 1-1 (aet) (agg 2-2, Milsami 4-2 on pens)
Skonto Riga (Lat) v Slovan Liberec (CzR)
2-1, 0-1 (agg 2-2, Liberec on away goals)
Slask Wroclaw (Pol) v Rudar Pljevlja (Mne)
4-0, 2-2 (agg 6-2)
Sparta Prague (CzR) v Hacken (Swe)
2-2, 0-1 (agg 2-3)
Stromsgodset (Nor) v Debrecen (Hun)
2-2, 3-0 (agg 5-2)
Thun (Swi) v Chikhura (Geo) 2-0, 3-1 (agg 5-1)
Trabzonspor (Tur) v Derry (Nlr) 4-2, 3-0 (agg 7-2)
Tromso (Nor) v Inter Baku (Aze) 2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
Valletta (Mlt) v Minsk (Bls) 1-1, 0-2 (agg 1-3)
Ventspils (Lat) v Jeunesse Esch (Lux)
1-0, 4-1 (agg 5-1)
Vojvodina (Ser) v Honved (Hun) 2-0, 3-1 (agg 5-1)
Xanthi (Gre) v Linfield (Nlr)
0-1, 2-1 (agg 2-2, Xanthi on away goals)
Zalgiris (Lit) v Pyunik Yerevan (Arm)
2-0, 1-1 (agg 3-1)
Zrinjski (Bos) v Botev Plovdiv (Bul) 1-1, 0-2 (agg 1-3)

3rd qualifying round

1st legs - Aug 1; 2nd legs - Aug 8
(teams with country abbreviation entered at this stage)

Aktobe v Breidablik
1-0, 0-1 (aet) (agg 1-1, Aktobe 2-1 on pens)
Asteras (Gre) v Rapid Vienna (Aut)
1-1, 1-3 (agg 2-4)
Botev Plovdiv v Stuttgart (Ger)
1-1, 0-0 (agg 1-1, Stuttgart on away goals)
Chornomorets v Red Star Belgrade 3-1, 0-0 (agg 3-1)
Dinamo Minsk v Trabzonspor 0-1, 0-0 (agg 0-1)
Estoril (Por) v Ramat Gan (Isr) 0-0, 1-0 (agg 1-0)
Hacken v Thun 1-2, 0-1 (agg 1-3)
Hajduk Split v Dila 0-1, 0-1 (agg 0-2)
Jablonec (CzR) v Stromsgodset 2-1, 3-1 (agg 5-2)
Kukesi v Metalurh Donetsk (Ukr) 2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
Minsk v St Johnstone
0-1, 1-0 (aet) (agg 1-1, Minsk 3-2 on pens)
Motherwell (Sco) v Kuban Krasnodar (Rus)
0-2, 0-1 (agg 0-3)
Pandurii v Hapoel Tel Aviv 1-1, 2-1 (agg 3-2)
Petrolul v Vitesse Arnhem (Hol) 1-1, 2-1 (agg 3-2)
Qarabag v Gefle 1-0, 2-0 (agg 3-0)
Randers (Den) v Rubin Kazan 1-2, 0-2 (agg 1-4)
Rijeka v Zilina 2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2)
Saint-Etienne (Fra) v Milsami 3-0, 3-0 (agg 6-0)
Sevilla (Spa) v Mladost Podgorica 3-0, 6-1 (agg 9-1)
Siroki Brijeg v Udinese (Ita) 1-3, 0-4 (agg 1-7)
Slask Wroclaw v Club Brugge (Blg)
1-0, 3-3 (agg 4-3)
Slovan Liberec v Zurich (Swi) 2-1, 2-1 (agg 4-2)
Swansea (Wal) v Malmo 4-0, 0-0 (agg 4-0)
Trencin v Astra 1-3, 2-2 (agg 3-5)
Tromso v Differdange
1-0, 0-1 (aet) (agg 1-1, Tromso 4-3 on pens)
Ventspils v Maccabi Haifa 0-0, 0-3 (agg 0-3)
Vojvodina v Bursaspor (Tur) 2-2, 3-0 (agg 5-2)
Xanthi v Standard Liege 1-2, 1-2 (agg 2-4)
Zalgiris v Lech Poznan
1-0, 1-2 (agg 2-2, Zalgiris on away goals)

AUSTRIA

July 20: Austria 2 Admira 0; Grodig 0 Ried 0; Wiener Neustadt 1 Salzburg 5; Wolfsberger 2 Rapid 2.
July 21: Wacker 2 Sturm 2.
July 27: Rapid 4 Wiener Neustadt 0; Ried 1 Wolfsberger 0; Salzburg 5 Austria 1; Admira 1 Wacker 2.
July 28: Sturm 0 Grodig 2.
Aug 3: Wiener Neustadt 2 Wolfsberger 1; Grodig 7 Admira 1; Wacker 1 Salzburg 1; Austria 3 Ried 3.
Aug 4: Sturm 2 Rapid 4.
Aug 10: Wolfsberger 1 Wacker 1; Ried 1 Wiener Neustadt 1; Salzburg 4 Grodig 1; Admira 1 Sturm 1.
Aug 11: Rapid 0 Austria 0.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	4	3	1	0	15	4	10
Rapid	4	2	2	0	10	4	8
Grodig	4	2	1	1	10	5	7
Wacker	4	1	3	0	6	5	6
Ried	4	1	3	0	5	4	6
Austria	4	1	2	1	6	8	5
W Neustadt	4	1	1	2	4	11	4
Wolfsberger	4	0	2	2	4	6	2
Sturm	4	0	2	2	5	9	2
Admira	4	0	1	3	3	12	1

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

BELGIUM

Regular season

July 26: Club Brugge 2 Charleroi 0.
July 27: Genk 3 Oostende 0; Kortrijk 1 OH Leuven 0; Lierse 1 Zulte Waregem 2; Mons 1 Cercle Brugge 1; Waasland-Beveren 1 Gent 1.
July 28: Anderlecht 2 Lokeren 3; Mechelen 0 Standard 2.
Aug 2: Cercle Brugge 0 Anderlecht 4.
Aug 3: Charleroi 1 Waasland-Beveren 1; Zulte Waregem 1 Kortrijk 0; OH Leuven 1 Genk 4; Lokeren 2 Mons 1.
Aug 4: Gent 2 Mechelen 1; Standard 3 Lierse 0; Oostende 1 Club Brugge 2.
Aug 9: Kortrijk 3 Lokeren 3.
Aug 10: Oostende 1 OH Leuven 1; Lierse 1 Cercle Brugge 1; Mons 1 Charleroi 2; Waasland-Beveren 0 Mechelen 0.
Aug 11: Club Brugge 1 Zulte Waregem 1; Anderlecht 4 Gent 1; Genk 0 Standard 2.

BELGIUM – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Standard	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
Club Brugge	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Lokeren	3	2	1	0	8	6	7
Z Waregem	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Anderlecht	3	2	0	1	10	4	6
Genk	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Kortrijk	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Charleroi	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Gent	3	1	1	1	4	6	4
Waasland-B	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Cercle Brugge	3	0	2	1	2	6	2
Mons	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Mechelen	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
Lierse	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
OH Leuven	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Oostende	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

30-round regular season (15x2); top 6 will form championship group, 7th to 14th will enter Europa League-place play-offs, 15th & 16th (bottom 2) will meet in the relegation play-off series (the loser going down automatically, the winner entering rel/prom play-offs)

SUPER CUP

July 21 - Brussels
Anderlecht 1 (Bruno 45+2)
Genk 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Van de Velde

CYPRUS

League fixtures: opening round

Aug 30-Sep 1
Alki v Aris
Anorthosis v Omonia
APOEL v ENP
Apollon v Ermis
Doxa v Nea Salamina
Ethnikos v AEL
Kouklia v AEK

CZECH REPUBLIC

July 19: Plzen 5 Bohemians 1905 0; Dukla 1 Znojmo 1; Slavia 1 Ostrava 1.
July 21: Teplice 3 Slovacko 2; Jablonec 0 Brno 0; Olomouc 1 Liberec 2; Jihlava 1 Sparta 4.
July 22: Mlada Boleslav 1 Pribram 1.
July 26: Znojmo 0 Teplice 0; Pribram 2 Plzen 4.
July 27: Slovacko 2 Jihlava 1; Ostrava 2 Mlada Boleslav 1; Dukla 4 Olomouc 0.
July 28: Sparta 2 Jablonec 1; Liberec 2 Slavia 1.
July 29: Brno 5 Bohemians 1905 1.
Aug 2: Jihlava 4 Znojmo 0; Boh'ians 1905 2 Pribram 0.

HOLLAND

Teen striker's hat-trick

At the age of 17 years and 196 days, PSV striker Zakaria Bakkali became the youngest player to score a hat-trick in the Eredivisie, with three goals in his side's 5-0 victory over NEC.

The Belgian youngster was making only his second appearance in the Dutch top flight.

Impressive start...Bakkali

ITALY

Racist banned

Matera midfielder Gaetano Iannini was sent off against Sudtirol for racially abusing an opponent as his side lost 2-0 in the first round of the Italian Cup. Iannini, who plays in the Italian fifth tier, has been banned for 10 games by the league's disciplinary board.

Milan midfielder Kevin Constant walked off the pitch during a pre-season friendly against Sassuolo following racial abuse from the crowd.

Constant's actions mirrored those of his Milan team-mate, Kevin-Prince Boateng, whose departure from the field in protest at racism caused a friendly against Pro Patria to be abandoned at the start of this year.

Abused...midfielder Constant

Aug 3: Plzen 4 Ostrava 0.
Aug 4: Teplice 2 Dukla 1; Mlada Boleslav 4 Liberec 0; Jablonec 2 Slovacko 1; Brno 1 Sparta 3.
Aug 5: Slavia 2 Olomouc 3.
Aug 9: Dukla 0 Slavia 1.
Aug 10: Pribram 2 Brno 1; Slovacko 0 Mlada Boleslav 2; Olomouc 2 Teplice 2; Sparta 2 Bohemians 1905 1.
Aug 11: Liberec 1 Jihlava 0; Znojmo 0 Plzen 1.
Aug 12: Ostrava 0 Jablonec 4.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plzen	4	4	0	0	14	2	12
Sparta	4	4	0	0	11	4	12
Liberec	4	3	0	1	5	6	9
Teplice	4	2	2	0	7	5	8
M Boleslav	4	2	1	1	8	3	7
Jablonec	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Dukla	4	1	1	2	6	4	4
Brno	4	1	1	2	7	6	4
Slavia	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Pribram	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Olomouc	4	1	1	2	6	10	4
Ostrava	4	1	1	2	3	10	4
Jihlava	4	1	0	3	6	7	3
Slovacko	4	1	0	3	5	8	3
Bohemians	4	1	0	3	4	12	3
Znojmo	4	0	2	2	1	6	2

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

DENMARK

July 19: AGF 0 Midtjylland 2.
July 20: Viborg 2 Randers 2.
July 21: OB 1 SonderjyskE 1; Brondby 1 Vestsjaelland 1; AaB 2 Copenhagen 1.
July 22: Esbjerg 4 Nordsjaelland 0.
July 26: Nordsjaelland 1 Viborg 1.
July 27: Vestsjaelland 0 AGF 2.
July 28: Randers 1 OB 1; SonderjyskE 1 Brondby 0; Midtjylland 1 Copenhagen 0.
July 29: Esbjerg 1 AaB 2.
Aug 2: Midtjylland 2 SonderjyskE 1.
Aug 3: AGF 2 Nordsjaelland 1.
Aug 4: OB 4 Viborg 2; Copenhagen 1 Randers 3; Brondby 0 Esbjerg 2.
Aug 5: Vestsjaelland 2 AaB 1.
Aug 9: Viborg 2 Brondby 2.
Aug 10: Esbjerg 5 AGF 1.
Aug 11: Randers 1 Midtjylland 3; AaB 0 OB 0; Nordsjaelland 2 Copenhagen 2.
Aug 12: SonderjyskE 0 Vestsjaelland 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Midtjylland	4	4	0	0	8	2	12
Esbjerg	4	3	0	1	12	3	9
AaB	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
OB	4	1	3	0	6	4	6
AGF	4	2	0	2	5	8	6
Randers	4	1	2	1	7	7	5
SonderjyskE	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Vestsjaelland	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Viborg	4	0	3	1	7	9	3
Brondby	4	0	2	2	3	6	2
Nordsjaelland	4	0	2	2	4	9	2
Copenhagen	4	0	1	3	4	8	1

33-round season (11x3); bottom 2 will be relegated

ENGLAND

COMMUNITY SHIELD

Aug 11 - London
Manchester United 2 (Van Persie 6, 59)
Wigan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,235. **Ref:** Clattenburg

FRANCE

Friday, August 9
Montpellier 1 (Cabella 10)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Maxwell 60) Att: 27,717

Saturday, August 10
Bordeaux 0
Monaco 2 (Riviere 82, Falcao 87) Att: 32,158

Evian TG 1 (Ehret 4)
Sochaux 1 (Contout 54) Att: 10,287

Lille 1 (Origi 13)
Lorient 0 Att: 36,362

Lyon 4 (Lacazette 13, 69, Grenier 55, Gourcuff 90+2)
Nice 0 Att: 23,552

Nantes 2 (Djordjevic 23, Palmieri og 90+1)
Bastia 0 Att: 24,727

Rennes 2 (Pajot 9, Erdinc 84)
Reims 1 (Krychowiak 45+1) Att: 17,068

Valenciennes 3 (Melikson pen 37, Saez 52, Pujol 90+3)
Toulouse 0 Att: 12,261

Sunday, August 11
AC Ajaccio 0
Saint-Etienne 1 (Brandao 34) Att: 7,948

Guingamp 1 (Yatabare 74)
Marseille 3 (Gignac 2, Payet 4, 16) Att: 18,159

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Valenciennes	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Marseille	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Monaco	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Nantes	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Rennes	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Lille	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Saint-Etienne	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Evian TG	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Montpellier	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
PSG	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sochaux	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Reims	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
AC Ajaccio	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Lorient	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Guingamp	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Bastia	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Bordeaux	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Toulouse	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Nice	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers
2 Alexandre Lacazette (Lyon)
2 Dimitri Payet (Marseille)

SUPER CUP

Aug 3 - Libreville, Gabon
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ongenda 83, Alex 90+5)
Bordeaux 1 (Saivet 38)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 34,658. **Ref:** Efong Nzolo (Blg)

GERMANY

Friday, August 9
Bayern Munich 3 (Robben 12, Mandzukic 16, Alaba pen 69)
Monchengladbach 1 (Dante og 41) Att: 71,000

Saturday, August 10
Augsburg 0
Borussia Dortmund 4 (Aubameyang 24, 66, 79, Lewandowski pen 86) Att: 30,660

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Kiessling 22, Son 47, Sam 52)
Freiburg 1 (Hanke 40) Att: 27,136

Eintracht Braunschweig 0
Werder Bremen 1 (Junuzovic 82) Att: 23,000

Hanover 2 (Andreasen 17, Huszti 84)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 44,800

Hertha Berlin 6 (Ramos 18, 71, Brooks 32, Allagui 58, 60, Ronny 89)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Meier pen 37) Att: 54,376

Hoffenheim 2 (Abraham 34, Modeste 51)
Nuremberg 2 (Frantz 54, Ginczek 57) Att: 25,730

Sunday, August 11
Mainz 3 (N Muller 14, 78, Okazaki 65)
Stuttgart 2 (Ibisevic 16, Harnik 82) Att: 30,279

Schalke 3 (Huntelaar 2, 45+2, Szalai 72)
Hamburg 3 (Van der Vaart pen 12, Beister 24, Sobiech 49) Att: 61,973

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hertha	1	1	0	0	6	1	3
Dortmund	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Bayern	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Leverkusen	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Hanover	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Mainz	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Werder	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Hamburg	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Schalke	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Hoffenheim	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Nuremberg	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Stuttgart	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Braunschweig	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Freiburg	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
M'gladbach	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Wolfsburg	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Augsburg	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Frankfurt	1	0	0	1	1	6	0

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

Leading goalscorers
3 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Dortmund)
2 Sami Allagui (Hertha Berlin)
2 Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Schalke)
2 Nicolai Muller (Mainz)
2 Adrian Ramos (Hertha Berlin)

SUPER CUP

July 27 - Dortmund
Borussia Dortmund 4 (Reus 6, 86, Van Buyten og 56, Gundogan 57)
Bayern Munich 2 (Robben 54, 64)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,645. **Ref:** Drees

HOLLAND

Aug 2: Ajax 3 Roda JC 0.
Aug 3: Den Haag 2 PSV 3; Heerenveen 4 AZ 2; NEC 1 Groningen 4; Twente 0 RKC 0.
Aug 4: Cambuur 0 NAC 0; Utrecht 1 Go Ahead Eagles 1; Vitesse 3 Heracles 1; Zwolle 2 Feyenoord 1.
Aug 9: Roda JC 2 Cambuur 0.
Aug 10: Heracles 1 Zwolle 3; NAC 0 Heerenveen 2; Go Ahead Eagles 2 Den Haag 1; PSV 5 NEC 0.
Aug 11: Feyenoord 1 Twente 4; AZ 3 Ajax 2; Groningen 2 Utrecht 0; RKC 4 Vitesse 2.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Groningen	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Heerenveen	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Zwolle	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Twente	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
RKC	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Go Ahead	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Ajax	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Vitesse	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
AZ	2	1	0	1	5	6	3
Roda JC	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Utrecht	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Cambuur	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
NAC	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Den Haag	2	0	0	2	3	5	0
Feyenoord	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
Heracles	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
NEC	2	0	0	2	1	9	0

34-round season (17x2); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd & 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

SUPER CUP

July 27 - Amsterdam
Ajax 3 (Gouweleeuw og 69, Sigthorsson 75, De Jong 103)
AZ 2 (Gudmundsson 51, Johannsson 67)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 2-2. **Att:** 48,000.
Ref: Liesveld

ISRAEL

League fixtures: opening round
Aug 24/25
Acre v Maccabi Tel Aviv
Beitar v Be'er Sheva
Bnei Yehuda v Ashdod
Hapoel Tel Aviv v Bnei Sakhnin
Maccabi Haifa v Kiryat Shmona
Ra'anana v Maccabi Petah Tikva
Ramat HaSharon v Hapoel Haifa

ITALY

League fixtures: opening rounds
Aug 24
Sampdoria v Juventus
Verona v Milan
Aug 25
Cagliari v Atalanta
Fiorentina v Catania
Internazionale v Genoa
Lazio v Udinese
Livorno v Roma
Napoli v Bologna
Parma v Chievo
Torino v Sassuolo
Aug 31
Chievo v Napoli
Juventus v Lazio

MACEDONIA

Sub settles Super Cup

Second-half substitute Filip Petrov scored the only goal of the game as Vardar beat Teteks 1-0 to win the Macedonian Super Cup.

MALTA

Title holders triumph

League champions Birkirkara won the Maltese Super Cup, beating Hibernians 3-2 with three first-half goals from Demba Toure, Franc Temile and Zach Muscat.

ROMANIA

Rapid are demoted

Rapid Bucharest were relegated two weeks after the season began, with the results of their games against Viitorul Constanta and Vaslui cancelled.

Concordia Chiajna, who lost a relegation play-off against Rapid at the end of last term, were readmitted to the top flight after taking their case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. They argued that Rapid should have been automatically relegated as they were refused a licence to continue in Liga I after filing for insolvency in November.

Embargo...struggling Hearts

SCOTLAND

More Hearts problems

Bottom of the league after starting the season with a 15-point deficit for going into administration, Hearts' problems increased with an extension of their transfer embargo. The club, who are £29million in debt, are barred from signing any new players aged 21 and over until February 1 next year.

Sep 1
Atalanta v Torino
Bologna v Sampdoria
Catania v Internazionale
Genoa v Fiorentina
Milan v Cagliari
Roma v Verona
Sassuolo v Livorno
Udinese v Parma
Sep 14/15
Fiorentina v Cagliari
Internazionale v Juventus
Lazio v Chievo
Livorno v Catania
Napoli v Atalanta
Parma v Roma
Sampdoria v Genoa
Torino v Milan
Udinese v Bologna
Verona v Sassuolo

NORWAY

July 27: Aalesund 2 Sandnes Ulf 3; Lillestrom 2 Molde 0.
July 28: Stromsgodset 6 Honefoss 1; Brann 1 Rosenborg 4; Odd 3 Tromso 1; Sogndal 1 Haugesund 1; Viking 3 Start 0.
July 29: Valerenga 5 Sarpsborg 3.
Aug 3: Molde 2 Brann 0; Start 0 Odd 1; Viking 2 Lillestrom 2.
Aug 4: Sarpsborg 2 Stromsgodset 4; Rosenborg 2 Sogndal 0; Haugesund 3 Sandnes Ulf 1; Honefoss 2 Aalesund 5; Tromso 2 Valerenga 2.
Aug 9: Brann 1 Lillestrom 1.
Aug 10: Sogndal 1 Molde 2; Odd 1 Viking 1.
Aug 11: Aalesund 3 Sarpsborg 1; Sandnes Ulf 2 Tromso 1; Stromsgodset 2 Rosenborg 2; Haugesund 1 Honefoss 0; Valerenga 1 Start 3.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	19	12	5	2	36	17	41
Stromsgodset	19	12	3	4	43	19	39
Aalesund	19	10	4	5	42	28	34
Viking	19	8	7	4	25	19	31
Haugesund	19	9	3	7	25	25	30
Brann	19	8	3	8	29	29	27
Odd	19	7	4	8	23	20	25
Valerenga	19	7	4	8	29	33	25
Molde	19	6	6	7	29	27	24
Lillestrom	19	6	5	8	24	28	23
Sogndal	19	5	8	6	25	30	23
Sandnes Ulf	19	6	4	9	22	33	22
Tromso	19	5	6	8	29	29	21
Start	19	4	6	9	25	38	18
Sarpsborg	19	4	5	10	25	42	17
Honefoss	19	3	7	9	21	35	16

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

POLAND

Regular season
July 19: Zaglebie 0 Pogon 2; Wisla 0 Gornik 0.
July 20: Zawisza 0 Jagiellonia 1; Legia 5 Widzew 1.
July 21: Korona 0 Slask 0; Cracovia 2 Piast 3; Ruch 1 Lech 1.
July 22: Lechia 2 Podbeskidzie 2.
July 26: Ruch 1 Lechia 1; Widzew 2 Zawisza 1.
July 27: Podbeskidzie 1 Gornik 2; Pogon 0 Legia 3.
July 28: Piast 2 Zaglebie 1; Slask 2 Jagiellonia 3; Lech 1 Cracovia 1.
July 29: Korona 2 Wisla 3.
Aug 2: Cracovia 2 Ruch 1; Zawisza 1 Pogon 1.
Aug 3: Widzew 2 Korona 1; Legia 4 Podbeskidzie 0.
Aug 4: Gornik 2 Piast 1; Slask 0 Wisla 0; Zaglebie 0 Lech 0.
Aug 5: Lechia 2 Jagiellonia 0.
Aug 9: Podbeskidzie 0 Zaglebie 0; Wisla 1 Jagiellonia 1.
Aug 10: Widzew 0 Gornik 3; Lechia 3 Cracovia 1; Ruch 2 Legia 1.
Aug 11: Pogon 2 Slask 2; Lech 2 Korona 0.
Aug 12: Piast 1 Zawisza 1.

POLAND – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gornik	4	3	1	0	7	2	10
Legia	4	3	0	1	13	3	9
Lechia	4	2	2	0	8	4	8
Piast	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Jagiellonia	4	2	1	1	5	5	7
Lech	4	1	3	0	4	2	6
Wisla	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Widzew	4	2	0	2	5	10	6
Ruch	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Pogon	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Cracovia	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Slask	4	0	3	1	4	5	3
Zawisza	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
Zaglebie	4	0	2	2	1	4	2
Podbeskidzie	4	0	2	2	3	8	2
Korona	4	0	1	3	3	7	1

30-round regular season (15x2); top 8 will form championship group, bottom 8 will form relegation group (from which the bottom 2 will go down)

PORTUGAL

SUPER CUP

Aug 10 - Aveiro
Porto 3 (Lica 5, Martinez 17, Gonzalez 45)
Guimaraes 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Soares Dias

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

July 19: Bray 1 Bohemians 3; Shamrock 1 UCD 1; Shelbourne 2 Limerick 1; Cork 2 Dundalk 2.
July 26: Bohemians 1 Drogheda 1; Dundalk 1 Bray 0; St Patrick's 2 Cork 1; UCD 1 Shelbourne 2.
July 27: Sligo 0 Shamrock 0.
July 28: Limerick 0 Derry 1.
Aug 2: Bohemians 1 UCD 3; Derry 1 Sligo 2; Dundalk 3 Shamrock 1; Limerick 2 Cork 1; St Patrick's 0 Drogheda 0.
Aug 4: Bray 1 Shelbourne 1.
Aug 9: Cork 1 Bohemians 0; Drogheda 3 Limerick 0; UCD 1 Derry 3; Shamrock 0 St Patrick's 4; Shelbourne 1 Dundalk 2.
Aug 10: Sligo 2 Bray 0.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Patrick's	23	15	5	3	40	12	50
Dundalk	24	15	4	5	39	25	49
Sligo	23	13	7	3	38	15	46
Derry	23	14	3	6	44	25	45
Shamrock	24	8	12	4	28	19	36
Limerick	24	7	8	9	31	33	29
Cork	24	7	6	11	26	35	27
Drogheda	23	5	11	7	31	32	26
UCD	24	6	4	14	36	55	22
Shelbourne	24	5	5	14	17	35	20
Bray	24	5	5	14	28	51	20
Bohemians	24	4	6	14	19	40	18

33-round season (11x3); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

ROMANIA

July 19: Poli 2 Dinamo 0.
July 20: Pandurii 3 Brasov 1; Sageata 1 Gaz Metan 0; Steaua 2 Ceahlaul 1.
July 21: Botosani 0 CFR 0; Universitatea 0 Petrolul 1; Viitorul 0 Astra 4.
July 22: Corona 0 Otelul 1.
July 26: Gaz Metan 1 Botosani 2; Ceahlaul 3 Corona 0.
July 27: Otelul 2 Universitatea 1; CFR 2 Poli 2.
July 28: Dinamo 2 Vaslui 0.
July 29: Brasov 1 Sageata 1; Petrolul 1 Pandurii 1.
Aug 2: Universitatea 1 Ceahlaul 1.
Aug 3: Botosani 1 Sageata 1.
Aug 4: Corona 2 Astra 5; Petrolul 0 Brasov 0; Pandurii 2 Otelul 1.
Aug 5: Poli 2 Gaz Metan 1; Viitorul 0 Dinamo 0; Vaslui 4 CFR 0.
Aug 9: Brasov 1 Botosani 2.
Aug 10: Sageata 1 Poli 2; CFR 2 Viitorul 1; Concordia 1 Corona 0.
Aug 11: Ceahlaul 1 Pandurii 0; Otelul 1 Petrolul 2; Astra 3 Universitatea 1; Dinamo 1 Steaua 2.
Aug 12: Gaz Metan 1 Vaslui 1.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poli	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
Astra	3	3	0	0	12	3	9
Botosani	4	2	2	0	5	3	8
Petrolul	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
Ceahlaul	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Pandurii	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Steaua	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Otelul	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Sageata	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
CFR	4	1	2	1	4	7	5
Dinamo	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
Vaslui	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Concordia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Brasov	4	0	2	2	3	6	2
Gaz Metan	4	0	1	3	3	6	1
Universitatea	4	0	1	3	3	7	1
Viitorul	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
Corona	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

34-round season (17x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

RUSSIA

July 14: Dynamo 2 Volga 2; Anzhi 2 Lokomotiv 2; Kuban 1 Rubin 1.
July 15: Rostov 2 Terek 1.
July 16: Amkar 2 Tom 0; Krylia Sovetov 1 Spartak 2.
July 17: Ural 2 CSKA 2; Krasnodar 1 Zenit 2.
July 19: Dynamo 2 Anzhi 1.
July 20: Tom 1 Kuban 2; Volga 1 Lokomotiv 2; Terek 1 Amkar 1.
July 21: Rubin 2 Zenit 1; Ural 0 Spartak 2; Rostov 2 Krasnodar 2.
July 22: CSKA 2 Krylia Sovetov 1.
July 26: Zenit 1 Kuban 1.
July 27: Dynamo 1 Spartak 4; Ural 1 Volga 2; Rostov 3 Tom 0.
July 28: Lokomotiv 1 CSKA 2; Krylia Sovetov 1 Anzhi 1; Terek 0 Rubin 0.
July 29: Krasnodar 2 Amkar 1.
Aug 2: Anzhi 0 Rostov 1.
Aug 3: Volga 1 Zenit 3; Tom 1 Ural 2; Dynamo 1 Terek 0.
Aug 4: Rubin 0 CSKA 0; Amkar 0 Krylia Sovetov 0; Kuban 2 Spartak 2.
Aug 5: Lokomotiv 3 Krasnodar 1.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak	4	3	1	0	10	4	10
Rostov	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
CSKA	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
Lokomotiv	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Zenit	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Dynamo	4	2	1	1	6	7	7
Rubin	4	1	3	0	3	2	6
Kuban	4	1	3	0	6	5	6
Amkar	4	1	2	1	4	3	5
Volga	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Krasnodar	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Ural	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Anzhi	4	0	2	2	4	6	2
Krylia Sovetov	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
Terek	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
Tom	4	0	0	4	2	9	0

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd & 4th bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

SCOTLAND

Regular season
Aug 2: Partick 0 Dundee United 0.
Aug 3: Aberdeen 2 Kilmarnock 1; Celtic 2 Ross County 1; Inverness 3 St Mirren 0.
Aug 4: Hibernian 0 Motherwell 1; St Johnstone 1 Hearts 0.
Aug 10: Dundee United 0 Inverness 1; Ross County 1 Partick 3.
Aug 11: Hearts 1 Hibernian 0; Kilmarnock 0 St Johnstone 0; Motherwell 1 Aberdeen 3.

SCOTLAND – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inverness	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Aberdeen	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Partick	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
St Johnstone	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Celtic	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Motherwell	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Kilmarnock	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Dundee Utd	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Hibernian	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Ross County	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
St Mirren	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Hearts[1]	2	1	0	1	1	1	-12

33-round regular season (11x3); top 6 will form championship group, bottom 6 will form relegation group (from which the bottom team will go down and the 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs)
[1]15pts deducted for going into administration

SWEDEN

July 15: Helsingborg 3 Oster 0.
July 21: Djurgarden 1 Norrkoping 2.
July 22: Hacken 2 AIK 3.
July 24: Halmstad 0 Helsingborg 1.
July 27: Oster 1 Mjallby 1; Kalmar 2 Brommapojkarna 2; Atvidaberg 1 Elfsborg 1.
July 28: Gefle 2 Malmo 0; Gothenburg 2 Helsingborg 4.
July 29: Halmstad 1 Syrianska 1.
Aug 3: Oster 0 Brommapojkarna 0; Kalmar 1 Syrianska 0; AIK 2 Elfsborg 1.
Aug 4: Atvidaberg 1 Gefle 1; Halmstad 1 Malmo 3; Gothenburg 3 Hacken 1.
Aug 5: Norrkoping 3 Mjallby 2; Djurgarden 2 Helsingborg 1.
Aug 10: Brommapojkarna 3 Djurgarden 0; Elfsborg 1 Kalmar 0; Atvidaberg 0 Halmstad 1.
Aug 11: Helsingborg 0 Norrkoping 0; Syrianska 0 Gothenburg 2; Gefle 2 Mjallby 1; Hacken 0 Oster 2; Malmo 1 AIK 0.

SERBIA

Pressure mounts

Red Star Belgrade lost their opening league game of the season for a fourth successive campaign.

A shock 4-2 defeat at Javor Ivanjica increased the pressure on Red Star's Slovenian coach Slavisa Stojanovic, who oversaw their elimination from the Europa League by Chernomorets Odessa of the Ukraine three days earlier.

SWEDEN

Quick treble for Gefle

Gefle scored twice in the last five minutes to overturn a 3-0 first-leg deficit and beat Anorthosis of Cyprus 4-0 at home in the second qualifying round of the Europa League. However, they lost in the next round, going out 3-0 on aggregate to Qarabag of Azerbaijan.

Elfsborg striker Simon Hedlund suffered a punctured lung after chesting the ball during his side's 1-0 win against Kalmar. The 20-year-old had to be carried from the Boras Arena pitch on a stretcher and was taken to hospital with chest pains and breathlessness.

Hurt...Hedlund was hospitalised

BRAZIL

Keeper saves the day

Portuguesa goalkeeper Lauro scored with an injury-time header to earn his side a 1-1 draw with Flamengo. Four days later he saved a spot-kick kick from Rogerio Ceni – the 40-year-old keeper who has scored more than 100 goals in his career – in his team's 2-1 victory over Sao Paulo.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Helsingborg	19	11	5	3	40	15	38
Malmo	19	11	5	3	35	21	38
AIK	19	10	5	4	31	20	35
Gothenburg	19	10	5	4	30	19	35
Elfsborg	19	8	7	4	32	18	31
Kalmar	19	8	7	4	22	15	31
Atvidaberg	19	8	4	7	23	20	28
Norrkoping	18	7	5	6	27	27	26
Mjallby	19	7	4	8	32	29	25
Gefle	19	4	9	6	22	28	21
Hacken	19	6	2	11	22	31	20
Djurgarden	18	5	4	9	14	31	19
Oster	19	4	6	9	16	25	18
Bromm'karna	19	4	6	9	21	36	18
Halmstad	19	3	8	8	17	28	17
Syrianska	19	2	4	13	14	35	10

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

SWITZERLAND

July 20: Aarau 4 Lucerne 2; Lausanne 1 Young Boys 3.
July 21: Thun 3 St Gallen 2; Sion 0 Zurich 0; Grasshopper 1 Basle 1.
July 27: Basle 2 Lausanne 0; Grasshopper 4 Aarau 2.
July 28: Sion 0 St Gallen 1; Lucerne 3 Zurich 2; Young Boys 3 Thun 2.
Aug 3: St Gallen 1 Basle 1; Lausanne 0 Grasshopper 0.
Aug 4: Zurich 1 Young Boys 3; Thun 2 Aarau 2; Lucerne 1 Sion 0.
Aug 10: Grasshopper 0 Sion 0; Aarau 0 Young Boys 4.
Aug 11: Thun 1 Lucerne 1; St Gallen 2 Lausanne 0; Basle 1 Zurich 2.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Young Boys	5	5	0	0	15	4	15
Lucerne	5	3	1	1	9	7	10
Grasshopper	5	2	3	0	7	3	9
Basle	5	2	2	1	8	5	8
St Gallen	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Zurich	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
Thun	5	1	2	2	10	11	5
Aarau	5	1	1	3	9	15	4
Sion	5	0	2	3	0	4	2
Lausanne	5	0	1	4	1	9	1

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

TURKEY

SUPER CUP

Aug 11 - Kayseri
Galatasaray 1 (Drogba 99)
Fenerbahce 0
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Ref:** Yildirim
Sent off: Bruno Alves (Fenerbahce) 63min

UKRAINE

July 15: Metalist 1 Metalurh Donetsk 0.
July 19: Illichivets 0 Dnipro 2.
July 20: Hoverla 1 Dynamo 2; Arsenal 1 Metalist 2; Metalurh Donetsk 1 Karpaty 1.
July 21: Sevastopol 1 Shakhtar 3; Volyn 1 Tavriya 0; Chornomorets 1 Vorskla 1.
July 22: Zorya 0 Metalurh Zaporizhya 0.
July 26: Metalist 2 Illichivets 0.
July 27: Karpaty 0 Arsenal 2; Vorskla 1 Metalurh Donetsk 2; Dnipro 1 Zorya 3; Metalurh Zaporizhya 3 Volyn 0.
July 28: Tavriya 1 Hoverla 3; Shakhtar 1 Chornomorets 0; Dynamo 2 Sevastopol 0.
Aug 2: Illichivets 1 Karpaty 1.
Aug 3: Hoverla 1 Metalurh Zaporizhya 1; Arsenal 1 Vorskla 1; Zorya 2 Metalist 2; Volyn 1 Dnipro 3; Sevastopol 1 Tavriya 0.
Aug 4: Shakhtar 3 Dynamo 1; Chornomorets 1 Metalurh Donetsk 0.
Aug 9: Metalurh Zaporizhya 2 Sevastopol 2.
Aug 10: Vorskla 1 Illichivets 0; Karpaty 0 Zorya 0; Tavriya 0 Shakhtar 4; Metalist 4 Volyn 0.
Aug 11: Dnipro 1 Hoverla 0; Metalurh Donetsk 2 Arsenal 0; Dynamo 1 Chornomorets 2.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	5	5	0	0	13	2	15
Metalist	5	4	1	0	11	3	13
Dnipro	5	4	0	1	10	4	12
Zorya	5	2	3	0	7	3	9
Vorskla	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Chornomorets	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
Metalurh D	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
Dynamo	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Metalurh Z	5	1	3	1	6	4	6
Sevastopol	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
Hoverla	5	1	1	3	5	7	4
Arsenal	5	1	1	3	4	8	4
Illichivets	5	1	1	3	2	6	4
Volyn	5	1	1	3	3	11	4
Karpaty	5	0	3	2	2	6	3
Tavriya	5	0	0	5	1	11	0

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers

5 Marko Devych (Metalist)
4 Luiz Adriano (Shakhtar)
4 Dieumerci Mbokani (Dynamo)
4 Yevhen Seleznyov (Dnipro)

SOUTH AMERICA

RECOPA

(2012 Libertadores Cup winners, Corinthians v 2012 Sudamericana Cup winners, Sao Paulo)

2nd leg

July 17
Corinthians (Bra) 2 (Romarinho 36, Danilo 69)
Sao Paulo (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 36,050. **Ref:** De Oliveira (Bra)
Corinthians 4-1 on agg
Corinthians: Cassio - Edenilson, Gil, Paulo Andre, Fabio Santos, Ralf, Guilherme, Romarinho (Renato Augusto 81), Danilo, Emerson Sheik (Ibson 89), Guerrero (Alexandre Pato 86).
Sao Paulo: Rogerio Ceni - Douglas, Lucio, Rafael Toloi, Juan (Maicon 68), Rodrigo Caio, Wellington (Aloisio 46), Denilson, Ganso, Osvaldo, Luis Fabiano.

LIBERTADORES CUP

Final

1st leg

July 17
Olimpia (Par) 2 (A Silva 23, Pittoni 90+4)
Atletico Mineiro (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)
Olimpia: M Silva - Manzur, Miranda, Candia, Pittoni, A Silva, Aranda, Benitez, Gimenez (Ferreyra 46), Bareiro (Prono 90+1), Salgueiro (Paredes 89).
Mineiro: Victor - Marcos Rocha, Rever, Leonardo Silva, Richarlyson, Pierre, Josue, Diego Tardelli, Ronaldinho (Guilherme 65), Luan (Rosinei 64), Jo (Alecsandro 79). *Sent off: Richarlyson 90min.*

2nd leg

July 24
Atletico Mineiro 2 (Jo 46, Leonardo Silva 87)
Olimpia 0
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 2-0. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Agg 2-2; Mineiro 4-3 on pens
Mineiro: Victor - Michel (Alecsandro 72), Leonardo Silva, Rever, Junior Cesar, Pierre (Rosinei 46), Josue, Diego Tardelli (Guilherme 80), Ronaldinho, Bernard, Jo.
Olimpia: M Silva - Mazacotte, Manzur, Miranda, Candia, Benitez, Pittoni, Aranda, A Silva (Gimenez 71), Salgueiro (Baez 83), Bareiro (Ferreyra 46).
Sent off: Manzur 85min.
Penalty shoot-out (Olimpia 1st)
Miranda x (saved), Alecsandro + (0-1);
Ferreyra +, Guilherme + (1-2);
Candia +, Jo + (2-3);
Aranda +, Leonardo Silva + (3-4);
Gimenez x (missed) (3-4)

SUDAMERICANA CUP

1st round

1st legs - July 30-Aug 1; 2nd legs - Aug 6-8
Blooming (Bol) v River Plate (Uru) 0-1, 0-4 (agg 0-5)
Cobreloa (Chl) v Penarol (Uru) 0-0, 2-0 (agg 2-0)
Deportivo Pasto (Col) v Melgar (Per)
3-0, 0-2 (agg 3-2)
El Tanque Sisley (Uru) v Colo Colo (Chl)
0-1, 0-2 (agg 0-3)
Guarani (Par) v Oriente Petrolero (Bol)
0-0, 4-1 (agg 4-1)
Independiente del Valle (Ecu) v Anzoategui (Ven)
0-0, 2-0 (agg 2-0)
Inti Gas (Per) v Atletico Nacional (Col)
0-1, 0-4 (agg 0-5)
Itagui (Col) v Juan Aurich (Per) 3-0, 3-2 (agg 6-2)
LDU Loja (Ecu) v Deportivo Lara (Ven)
2-0, 1-1 (agg 3-1)
Mineros de Guayana (Ven) v Barcelona (Ecu)
2-2, 2-0 (agg 4-2)
Montevideo Wanderers (Uru) v Libertad (Par)
1-2, 0-0 (agg 1-2)
Nacional (Par) v The Strongest (Bol)
0-0, 1-1 (agg 1-1, Nacional on away goals)
Real Potosi (Bol) v Universidad de Chile (Chl)
3-1, 0-5 (agg 3-6)
Sport Huancayo (Per) v Emelec (Ecu)
1-3, 0-4 (agg 1-7)
Trujillanos (Ven) v La Equidad (Col)
0-1, 0-0 (agg 0-1)
Universidad Catolica (Chl) v Cerro Porteno (Par)
1-1, 1-0 (agg 2-1)

2nd round draw

(teams with country abbreviation entered at this stage)
Belgrano (Arg) v Velez Sarsfield (Arg)
Criciuma (Bra) v Ponte Preta (Bra)
Deportivo Pasto v Colo Colo
Guarani v Atletico Nacional
Itagui v River Plate
La Equidad v Cobreloa
LDU Loja v Nacional
Libertad v Mineros de Guayana
Portuguesa (Bra) v Bahia (Bra)
Racing (Arg) v Lanus (Arg)
San Lorenzo (Arg) v River Plate (Arg)
Sport Recife (Bra) v Nautico (Bra)
Universidad Catolica v Emelec
Universidad de Chile v Independiente del Valle
Vitoria (Bra) v Coritiba (Bra)
1st legs - Aug 13-22; 2nd legs - Aug 27-Sep 5

Bye to 3rd round: Sao Paulo (Bra; holders)

ARGENTINA

1st tournament

Aug 2: Godoy Cruz 3 Argentinos Juniors 1; Arsenal 1 Estudiantes 1.
Aug 3: All Boys 1 Atletico Rafaela 1; Colon 1 Racing 1; Tigre 1 Velez Sarsfield 2.
Aug 4: Gimnasia 1 River Plate 0; Lanus 3 Belgrano 0; Rosario 2 Quilmes 0; San Lorenzo 2 Olimpo 1.
Aug 7: Argentinos 2 Colon 0; Belgrano 1 Boca 2; Estudiantes 1 All Boys 0.
Aug 8: Quilmes 1 Godoy Cruz 0; Rafaela 2 Lanus 1; Velez 0 Arsenal 0.
Aug 9: Olimpo 0 Tigre 0; Racing 0 San Lorenzo 3; River Plate 1 Rosario 0.

ARGENTINA – 1ST TOURNAMENT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Lorenzo	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Rafaela	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Estudiantes	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Velez	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Lanus	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Godoy Cruz	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Boca	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Rosario	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Gimnasia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Argentinos	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
River Plate	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Quilmes	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Arsenal	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
All Boys	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Olimpo	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Tigre	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Colon	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Racing	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Newell's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belgrano	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

19-round tournament (19x1); no relegation after 1st tournament

BRAZIL

July 20: Criciuma 2 Gremio 1; Sao Paulo 0 Cruzeiro 3; Botafogo 2 Nautico 0.
July 21: Vitoria 0 Bahia 0; Internacional 1 Flamengo 0; Paranaense 1 Corinthians 1; Santos 2 Coritiba 2; Fluminense 1 Vasco 3; Goias 2 Portuguesa 1.
July 25: Sao Paulo 0 Internacional 1.
July 27: Vasco 3 Criciuma 2; Ponte Preta 1 Santos 0; Portuguesa 2 Paranaense 3.
July 28: Corinthians 0 Sao Paulo 0; Gremio 2 Fluminense 0; Nautico 3 Internacional 0; Cruzeiro 4 Mineiro 1; Flamengo 1 Botafogo 1; Bahia 2 Goias 1; Coritiba 1 Vitoria 1.
July 31: Fluminense 1 Cruzeiro 0; Mineiro 1 Paranaense 2; Portuguesa 1 Criciuma 1; Coritiba 5 Ponte Preta 3; Corinthians 2 Gremio 0; Bahia 3 Flamengo 0.
Aug 1: Botafogo 2 Vitoria 0; Goias 1 Vasco 1.
Aug 3: Cruzeiro 1 Coritiba 0.
Aug 4: Flamengo 3 Mineiro 0; Gremio 1 Internacional 1; Ponte Preta 1 Fluminense 1; Criciuma 0 Corinthians 2; Paranaense 2 Goias 0; Vasco 2 Botafogo 3; Vitoria 2 Portuguesa 1.
Aug 7: Vitoria 1 Fluminense 1; Criciuma 1 Cruzeiro 2; Flamengo 1 Portuguesa 1; Paranaense 1 Bahia 0; Goias 2 Nautico 1; Mineiro 2 Botafogo 2; Santos 1 Corinthians 1.
Aug 8: Vasco 1 Ponte Preta 1; Gremio 0 Coritiba 1.
Aug 10: Botafogo 1 Goias 1; Nautico 0 Mineiro 0.
Aug 11: Portuguesa 2 Sao Paulo 1; Fluminense 2 Flamengo 3; Corinthians 2 Vitoria 0; Cruzeiro 0 Santos 0; Coritiba 0 Vasco 1; Bahia 0 Gremio 3; Internacional 2 Paranaense 2; Ponte Preta 3 Criciuma 1.

COLOMBIA

Atletico win apertura

Atletico Nacional beat Independiente Santa Fe 2-0 on aggregate in the Apertura play-off Final.

Having drawn 0-0 in their home leg, Atletico won the title at the Estadio Nemesio Camacho with goals from Jefferson Duque and sub Luis Fernando Mosquera.

On target...Mosquera

COSTA RICA

Keeper is cup hero

Deportivo Saprissa's Donny Grant saved two spot-kicks as his side beat Carmelita on penalties to win the Costa Rican Cup Final.

EGYPT

Holders' big defeat

CAF Champions League holders Al Ahly suffered their heaviest ever home defeat in the continental competition when going down 3-0 to Orlando Pirates of South Africa.

Forced to play behind closed doors in El Gouna, Ahly's loss was their first at home in the group stage since 2002 – a run of 23 matches unbeaten.

Thandani Ntshumayelo, Andile Jali with a penalty and Sifiso Myeni scored for

Lost...Ahly's Saad Samir (right)

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruzeiro	13	7	4	2	25	10	25
Botafogo	13	7	4	2	21	13	25
Coritiba	13	6	5	2	18	13	23
Corinthians	13	5	6	2	13	6	21
Paranaense	13	5	5	3	23	20	20
Internacional	12	5	5	2	21	18	20
Gremio	13	5	4	4	15	12	19
Vitoria	13	5	4	4	17	15	19
Bahia	13	5	4	4	13	14	19
Vasco	13	5	3	5	19	22	18
Flamengo	13	4	5	4	16	15	17
Goias	13	4	5	4	12	17	17
Ponte Preta	12	4	3	5	17	18	15
Fluminense	13	4	2	7	17	20	14
Santos	11	3	5	3	13	11	14
Mineiro	12	3	3	6	11	18	12
Portuguesa	13	2	6	5	15	20	12
Criciuma	13	3	2	8	15	25	11
Sao Paulo	12	2	3	7	12	16	9
Nautico	11	2	2	7	8	18	8

38-round season (19x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

COLOMBIA

Apertura championship play-offs

Final, 1st leg

July 14

Atletico Nacional 0
Independiente Santa Fe 0
Att: 43,799. **Ref:** Arrieta

Final, 2nd leg

July 17

Independiente Santa Fe 0
Atletico Nacional 2 (Duque 38, Mosquera 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 36,300. **Ref:** Machado
Nacional 2-0 on agg

CONCACAF

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group 1

Aug 8: Arabe Unido (Pan) 3 W Connection (T&T) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arabe Unido	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Houston (USA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W Connection	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Group 2

Aug 7: Real Esteli (Nic) 0 Kansas City (USA) 2.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kansas City	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Olimpia (Hnd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Esteli	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group 3

Aug 8: Valencia (Hai) 1 Herediano (CR) 6.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Herediano	1	1	0	0	6	1	3
Cruz Azul (Mex)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valencia	1	0	0	1	1	6	0

Group 4

Aug 7: San Miguelito (Pan) 0 America (Mex) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Alajuelense (CR)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Miguelito	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Group 5

Aug 7: Montreal Impact (Can) 1 San Jose Earthquakes (USA) 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Montreal	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Heredia (Gtm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Jose	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Group 6

Aug 6: Toluca (Mex) 3 Caledonia AIA (T&T) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Com'nes (Gtm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caledonia	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Group 7

Aug 6: Luis Angel Firpo (ESv) 0 Tijuana (Mex) 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Firpo	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Tijuana	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Vitoria (Hnd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Group 8

Aug 8: Isidro Metapan (ESv) 2 Cartagines (CR) 4.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cartagines	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
LA Galaxy (US)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metapan	1	0	0	1	2	4	0

Remaining matchdays: *Aug 20-22, Aug 27-29, Sep 17-19, Sep 24-26, Oct 22-24*

Group winners qualify for quarter-finals

ARUBA

CHAMP'SHIP PLAY-OFFS FINAL SERIES – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
La Fama (C)	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Britannia	4	1	1	2	4	7	4

BARBADOS

BARBADOS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BDF (C)	18	13	4	1	51	12	43
Brittons Hill	18	11	2	5	44	21	35
Weymouth W	18	9	5	4	37	19	32
Pride of GH	18	8	7	3	40	25	31
Notre Dame	18	9	3	6	33	26	30
Paradise	18	7	4	7	20	26	25
Cosmos	18	5	3	10	23	31	18
Dayrell's Road	18	5	3	10	22	49	18
St John's (R)	18	3	2	13	13	52	11
Youth Milan (R)	18	2	3	13	21	43	9

MEXICO

Apertura

Regular season

July 19: Queretaro 1 Morelia 3; Tijuana 3 Atlas 3.
July 20: Cruz Azul 1 Monterrey 0; Veracruz 2 Chiapas 2; Leon 1 Atlante 0.
July 21: Puebla 1 Pumas 1; Toluca 0 Pachuca 1.
July 26: Morelia 3 Toluca 4; Santos 3 Cruz Azul 2.
July 27: Monterrey 1 Puebla 1; Pachuca 2 Tigres 1; Atlante 2 Veracruz 4; Chiapas 1 Guadalajara 1; Atlas 1 Leon 2.
July 28: Pumas 0 Queretaro 3.
July 30: Cruz Azul 1 Chiapas 1; Atlante 1 Atlas 1; Tijuana 1 Pachuca 0.
July 31: Guadalajara 0 Veracruz 2; Queretaro 3 Monterrey 3; Puebla 1 Santos 1; Toluca 0 Pumas 0; Tigres 1 Morelia 2; Leon 1 America 1.
Aug 3: Veracruz 3 Cruz Azul 2; America 3 Atlas 0; Morelia 2 Tijuana 1; Santos 2 Queretaro 0; Monterrey 1 Toluca 1; Pachuca 1 Leon 1; Chiapas 4 Puebla 2.
Aug 4: Pumas 0 Tigres 2; Guadalajara 1 Atlante 0.
Aug 9: Queretaro 1 Chiapas 1; Tijuana 2 Pumas 0.
Aug 10: Cruz Azul 3 Guadalajara 1; Tigres 3 Monterrey 1; Atlante 2 America 4; Leon 0 Morelia 0; Atlas 1 Pachuca 1.
Aug 11: Puebla 0 Veracruz 0; Toluca 2 Santos 2.

MEXICO – APERTURA: REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Veracruz	5	3	2	0	11	6	11
Morelia	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
Leon	5	2	3	0	5	3	9
Santos	4	2	2	0	8	5	8
Pachuca	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
America	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Chiapas	5	1	4	0	9	7	7
Tijuana	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Cruz Azul	5	2	1	2	9	8	7
Tigres	4	2	0	2	7	5	6
Toluca	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
Queretaro	5	1	2	2	8	9	5
Puebla	5	0	4	1	5	7	4
Guadalajara	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Monterrey	5	0	3	2	6	9	3
Atlas	5	0	3	2	6	10	3
Pumas	5	0	2	3	1	8	2
Atlante	5	0	1	4	5	11	1

17-round regular season (17x1); top 8 will enter apertura championship play-offs; no relegation after apertura

UNITED STATES

Regular season

July 17: Colorado 2 New England 1; Chivas 1 Toronto 0.
July 20: Seattle 1 Colorado 1; Toronto 0 New York 0; Montreal 0 Dallas 0; Columbus 0 New England 2; Philadelphia 0 Portland 0; Chicago 4 DC United 1; Salt Lake 1 Kansas City 2; Los Angeles 2 Vancouver 1.
July 27: Toronto 2 Columbus 1; Montreal 1 Kansas City 0; Vancouver 0 Philadelphia 1; New York 4 Salt Lake 3; DC United 1 New England 2; Colorado 2 Los Angeles 0; Houston 1 Chicago 1; San Jose 2 Portland 1.
July 28: Seattle 2 Chivas 1.
Aug 3: Kansas City 2 New York 3; DC United 3 Montreal 1; Philadelphia 1 Chicago 2; Colorado 2 Salt Lake 2; Houston 3 Columbus 1; San Jose 2 Chivas 0; Seattle 3 Dallas 0; Portland 1 Vancouver 1.
Aug 4: New England 0 Toronto 1.
Aug 10: Toronto 1 Seattle 2; Vancouver 2 San Jose 0; Columbus 2 New York 0; Philadelphia 2 DC United 0; Chicago 2 Montreal 1; Kansas City 3 New England 0; Salt Lake 1 Houston 0.
Aug 11: Dallas 3 Los Angeles 3; Chivas 1 Colorado 1.

USA – REGULAR: EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kansas City	24	11	6	7	36	24	39
New York	24	11	5	8	36	31	38
Philadelphia	24	10	7	7	36	32	37
Montreal	22	10	5	7	34	34	35
Houston	22	9	6	7	26	22	33
Chicago	22	9	4	9	29	32	31
New England	23	8	6	9	27	23	30
Columbus	23	7	5	11	27	30	26
Toronto	23	4	8	11	21	31	20
DC United	23	3	4	16	13	38	13

34-round regular season (7x3 & 2x2 in own conference, 9x1 in western conference)

USA – REGULAR: WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salt Lake	24	12	5	7	39	26	41
Vancouver	23	10	6	7	36	30	36
Colorado	25	9	9	7	31	27	36
Portland	22	8	11	3	32	21	35
Los Angeles	23	10	4	9	35	30	34
Seattle	21	10	4	7	29	23	34
Dallas	23	8	9	6	30	33	33
San Jose	24	8	6	10	25	35	30
Chivas	23	4	6	13	20	40	18

34-round regular season (8x3 in own conference, 10x1 in eastern conference)

Top 5 in both conferences will enter championship play-offs; no relegation from this league

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

July 20: Orlando Pirates (SAf) 0 AC Leopards (Con) 0.
July 24: Zamalek (Egy) 1 Al Ahly (Egy) 1.
Aug 4: AC Leopards 1 Zamalek 0; Al Ahly 0 Orlando Pirates 3.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Orlando Pirates	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
AC Leopards	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Zamalek	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Al Ahly	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Group B

July 21: Recreativo Libolo (Ang) 1 Esperance (Tun) 0.
Aug 3: Sewe Sports (IvC) 3 Recreativo Libolo 1; Esperance 2 Coton Sport (Cam) 0.
Aug 10: Coton Sport 1 Sewe Sports 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sewe Sports	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Esperance	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Recreativo	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Coton Sport	2	1	0	1	1	2	3

Remaining matchdays: *Aug 16-18, Aug 30-Sep 1, Sep 13-15, Sep 20-22*

Top 2 in both groups qualify for semi-finals

CONFEDERATION CUP

Group A

July 21: CS Sfaxien (Tun) 1 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 0; Saint George (Eth) 2 Stade Malien (Mli) 0.
Aug 3: Etoile Sahel 2 Saint George 1.
Aug 4: Stade Malien 1 CS Sfaxien 2.

Pirates, while Walid Soliman missed a penalty and Ahmed Abd El Zaher was sent off for the hosts.

IVORY COAST

ASEC's 18th success

ASEC Mimosas won the Ivorian Cup for a record 18th time, beating the holders, Stella Club, 5-4 on penalties in the Final after drawing 0-0.

CAMBODIA

First league title

Svay Rieng were crowned C-League champions for the first time after they beat holders Boueng Ket 1-0 in the play-off Final. Khoun Laboravy scored the only goal of the game to finish the season as league top scorer with 20 goals.

Phnom Penh Crown beat Build Bright United 1-0 after extra-time in the third-place play-off with a penalty from Dutch striker Elroy Van der Hooft.

IRAN

Boss attacked by fans

Mojtaba Taghavi resigned as coach of Mes Kerman just days before the start of the new season after he was attacked by fans of his own club at a training session.

FIJI

Nine not enough

Samuela Drudru scored nine goals in Suva's 15-0 thrashing of Tavua in the National Football League.

However, Suva's 3-1 loss to Rewa next time out handed the title to Ba, who have now won 12 of the last 15 championships. Nadi then beat Ba 3-1 to pip Suva for second place.

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals draw

Al Ahli (Sau) v Seoul (SKo)
Esteghlal (Irn) v Buriram United (Tha)
Guangzhou Evergrande (Chn) v Lekhwiya (Qat)
Kashiwa Reysol (Jap) v Al Shabab (Sau)
1st legs - Aug 21; 2nd legs - Sep 18

AFC CUP

Quarter-finals draw

Al Qadsia (Kuw) v Al Shorta (Syr)
East Bengal (Ind) v Semen Padang (Ins)
Kitchee (HK) v Al Faisaly (Jor)
New Radiant (Mdv) v Kuwait SC (Kuw)
1st legs - Sep 17; 2nd legs - Sep 24

CAMBODIA

Championship play-offs

Final

July 20 - Phnom Penh (Olympic)
Boeung Ket 0
Svay Rieng 1 (Laboravy 40)
HT: 0-1

JAPAN

July 17: Kashiwa 2 Shimizu 2; Shonan 0 Albirex 2; Kashima 1 Jubilo 1; Omiya 2 Kawasaki 3; Oita 1 Nagoya 2; Vegalta 0 Sanfrecce 2; Urawa 2 Yokohama 3; Cerezo 4 Sagan 1; Tokyo 4 Ventforet 1.
July 31: Kawasaki 1 Shonan 2; Ventforet 0 Vegalta 1; Albirex 1 Cerezo 0; Shimizu 0 Tokyo 0; Jubilo 1 Urawa 2; Sanfrecce 3 Omiya 1; Sagan 3 Oita 2; Yokohama 1 Kashiwa 1; Nagoya 3 Kashima 1.
Aug 3: Urawa 3 Sanfrecce 1; Kashima 1 Omiya 0; Vegalta 2 Kawasaki 1; Kashiwa 2 Sagan 1; Tokyo 2 Oita 0; Shonan 1 Yokohama 2; Albirex 3 Shimizu 1; Jubilo 2 Nagoya 3; Cerezo 0 Ventforet 1.
Aug 10: Shimizu 3 Shonan 1; Ventforet 1 Albirex 1; Vegalta 2 Kashima 1; Omiya 0 Cerezo 3; Kawasaki 2 Tokyo 2; Yokohama 2 Sagan 1; Nagoya 2 Urawa 0; Sanfrecce 2 Jubilo 1; Oita 0 Kashiwa 0.

JAPAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sanfrecce	20	13	3	4	36	17	42
Yokohama	20	12	5	3	37	22	41
Urawa	20	11	4	5	39	27	37
Omiya	20	11	3	6	32	23	36
Cerezo	20	9	6	5	30	19	33
Kashima	20	9	5	6	31	30	32
Tokyo	20	9	4	7	37	25	31
Vegalta	20	8	7	5	23	22	31
Nagoya	20	9	3	8	31	29	30
Kawasaki	20	8	5	7	42	38	29
Kashiwa	20	8	5	7	31	36	29
Albirex	20	8	3	9	26	28	27
Shimizu	20	7	5	8	24	31	26
Ventforet	20	4	6	10	16	29	18
Sagan	20	4	5	11	31	46	17
Shonan	20	4	4	12	17	36	16
Jubilo	20	2	7	11	26	34	13
Oita	20	1	6	13	19	36	9

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

CONFEDERATION CUP – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CS Sfaxien	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Saint George	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Etoile Sahel	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Stade Malien	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

[1]CS Sfaxien replaced Enugu Rangers (Nga), who were expelled from the tournament after fielding an ineligible player in the 4th round victory over CS Sfaxien

Group B

July 19: ES Setif (Alg) 1 TP Mazembe (DRC) 1.
July 20: FUS Rabat (Mor) 1 CA Bizertin (Tun) 1.
Aug 3: TP Mazembe 3 FUS Rabat 0.
Aug 4: CA Bizertin 0 ES Setif 0.

CONFEDERATION CUP – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TP Mazembe	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
CA Bizertin	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
ES Setif	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
FUS Rabat	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Remaining matchdays: *Aug 16-18, Aug 30-Sep 1, Sep 13-15, Sep 20-22*

Top 2 in both groups qualify for semi-finals

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

Championship Final

1st leg - July 7; 2nd leg - July 13
Mindelense v Academica Porto Novo
3-0, 2-2 (agg 5-2)

ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dedebit (C)	26	19	4	3	63	26	61
Saint George	26	14	9	3	36	17	51
Eth'pia Coffee	26	14	8	4	41	23	50
Defence	26	11	9	6	31	23	42
Awassa	26	12	5	9	39	33	41
EEPCO	26	10	9	7	35	27	39
Arba Minch	26	7	13	6	29	25	34
Insurance	26	5	15	6	23	25	30
Sidama Coffee	26	5	13	8	24	29	28
Banks	26	5	11	10	22	29	26
Harrar Beer	26	5	11	10	23	36	26
Muger Cement	26	5	10	11	16	30	25
Water W'ks (R)	26	3	6	17	22	55	15
Adama (R)	26	2	7	17	15	41	13

MALI

MALI – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S'de Malien (C)	30	25	4	1	56	14	79
Real Bamako	30	17	8	5	51	28	59
Djoliba	30	15	10	5	47	19	55
COB	30	15	10	5	37	23	55
Onze Createurs	30	13	7	10	40	28	46
Nianan	30	13	4	13	33	32	43
Bakaridjan	30	11	8	11	23	22	41
Duguwolofila	30	10	8	12	20	30	38
USFAS	30	9	9	12	28	32	36
ASOM	30	9	9	12	30	37	36
CSK	30	9	7	14	25	30	34
ONS	30	9	7	14	23	39	34
AS Bamako	30	9	6	15	36	36	33
Korofina (R)	30	8	8	14	32	36	32
Jeanne Arc (R)	30	7	9	14	21	41	30
Atar (R)	30	2	4	24	14	69	10

MALDIVES

MALDIVES – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Radiant (C)	19	19	0	0	73	5	57
Maziya	19	12	1	6	38	18	37
BG Sports	19	7	3	9	19	23	24
AYL	19	7	3	9	15	34	24
Valencia	19	6	4	9	22	29	22
Eagles	19	4	5	10	17	37	17
Victory[1,2]	14	3	3	8	10	27	12
VB Addu[1] (R)[2]	14	2	3	9	13	34	9

[1]Victory & VB Addu played only 14 games because they went into the rel/prom play-offs before the final phase of 5 games
[2]Victory stay in top division after finishing in top 2 of rel/prom play-off table; VB Addu relegated after finishing 3rd in the table

MYANMAR

MYANMAR – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yangon Utd (C)	22	15	4	3	42	20	49
Nay Pyi Taw	22	12	6	4	34	21	42
Zeyar SM	22	11	8	3	30	20	41
Kanbawza	22	10	8	4	46	24	38
Yadanarbon	22	8	8	6	28	20	32
Magwe	22	7	11	4	32	27	32
Ayeyawady	22	6	11	5	36	31	29
Zwekapin	22	5	8	9	24	31	23
Manaw Myay	22	4	8	10	23	34	20
Sthn Myanmar	22	5	3	14	15	41	18
Han'wady (R)	22	3	8	11	23	39	17
Rakhine (R)	22	2	5	15	21	46	11

OCEANIA

FIJI

FIJI – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ba (C)	18	13	2	3	58	14	41
Nadi	18	12	1	5	32	16	37
Suva	18	11	2	5	59	19	35
Lautoka	18	8	7	3	38	23	31
Labasa	18	9	3	6	29	20	30
Rewa	18	9	3	6	29	21	30
Navua	18	8	3	7	32	22	27
Nadroga	18	5	3	10	21	27	18
Tavua (R)	18	1	1	16	15	85	4
Savusavu (R)	18	0	3	15	11	77	3

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions (Q) = qualified (R) = relegated

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

September 6 to 10
Internationals
September 13, 14 and 15
CAF Champions League group games
September 17 and 18
UEFA Champions League group games start
September 18
AFC Champions League quarter-finals 2nd leg
September 19
Europa League group games start
September 20, 21 and 22
CAF Champions League group games
September 25
AFC Champions League semi-finals 1st leg

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EDITOR Gavin Hamilton
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EDITORIAL SECRETARY June Hiscock
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EDITORIAL
Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU
Tel: +44 (0) 20 3148 4817
Fax: +44 (0) 20 3148 8130
E-mail: world_soccer@ipcmedia.com

ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP
Lee Jacobs
Tel: +44 (0) 20 3148 2503
+44 (0) 20 3148 2823
E-mail: lee_jacobs@ipcmedia.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER Tom Jennings
PUBLISHING DIRECTOR Hamish Dawson
MANAGING DIRECTOR Paul Williams

Advertising +44 (0) 20 3148 2503
+44 (0) 20 3148 2823
Back issues +44 (0) 20 3148 4816
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International licensing enquiries
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SUBSCRIPTIONS DEPARTMENT
Rockwood House, 9-17 Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3DH, England Tel: +44 (0) 1444 475 675

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World Soccer's GREAT TEAMS

Nottingham Forest 1978-80

The second division also-rans were transformed by Brian Clough into double European Cup winners

Cup masters...inspired by the unique Clough-Taylor partnership, Nottingham Forest twice overcame the best Europe had to offer

Founder members of the Football League, Nottingham Forest were floundering in the second tier of English football when Brian Clough arrived in 1976.

With his long-time confidante, Peter Taylor, Clough repeated the feat he had achieved with Derby County: winning the Second and then First Division titles in successive seasons.

Between November 1977 and December 1978, Forest set a new record – since beaten by Arsenal – by going 42 league games unbeaten. They then went on to win the European Cup at the first attempt, a feat only previously achieved by Real Madrid and Internazionale.

They beat reigning European champions Liverpool on the way to a 1-0 Final victory over Malmo in May 1979. The team that triumphed in Munich was almost the same as the one that won promotion two years earlier, with only two additions: Trevor Francis and Peter Shilton.

Admittedly, Malmo were poor opponents, but the following year Forest retained the trophy, beating Hamburg in Madrid, again by a 1-0 scoreline.

The side had broken up by the 1981-82 season, with both Francis and Shilton sold on, but Forest's achievements continue to stand the test of time – only Milan, in 1990, have since retained the European Cup. WS

THE COACH AND HIS TEAM

Brian Clough

A charismatic and brilliant motivator, after winning the title at Derby County he had become a TV personality with ambitions to manage England – but it was at Forest where he enjoyed his greatest success.

His long-time assistant Peter Taylor retired in 1982, and the souring of their relationship, combined with alcoholism and allegations of transfer irregularities, blighted Clough's later years.

Tactics

Clough claimed to care little for tactics and formations, but had a clear gameplan in European competition.

Forest defended deep and would attack on the counter, with creativity coming from the wings and full-backs. John Robertson played a crucial role on the left, supplying the cross for Francis – used as a deep-lying outside-right in Munich – to score the only goal against Malmo.

THE STARTING XI

Peter Shilton
Goalkeeper
Signed for a record £250,000 from Stoke City in 1977 and went on to win a record 125 England caps.

Viv Anderson
Right-back
Nottingham-born and nicknamed "Spider", he was the first black player to play for England.

Larry Lloyd
Centre-back
Former Liverpool defender snapped up for £60,000 from Coventry during the promotion season.

Kenny Burns
Centre-back
Scotland international who had played as a striker before Forest redeployed him at the back.

Frank Clark
Left-back
Defender who joined from Newcastle United and would later manage Forest in the early 1990s.

John McGovern
Midfielder
Captain who previously played for Clough at Hartlepool United, Leeds United and Derby County.

Trevor Francis
Right winger
English football's first £1m player when signed from Birmingham City in February 1979.

Ian Bowyer
Midfielder
Goalscoring midfielder nicknamed "Bomber". Father of Blackburn Rovers manager Gary.

John Robertson
Left winger
Scotland international who joined Forest from school. Scored the only goal in the 1980 European Cup Final.

Tony Woodcock
Forward
Born locally, he went on to become an England regular and play for Cologne in Germany.

Garry Birtles
Forward
Signed from non-league Long Eaton, he went on to play for Manchester United, before a return to Forest.

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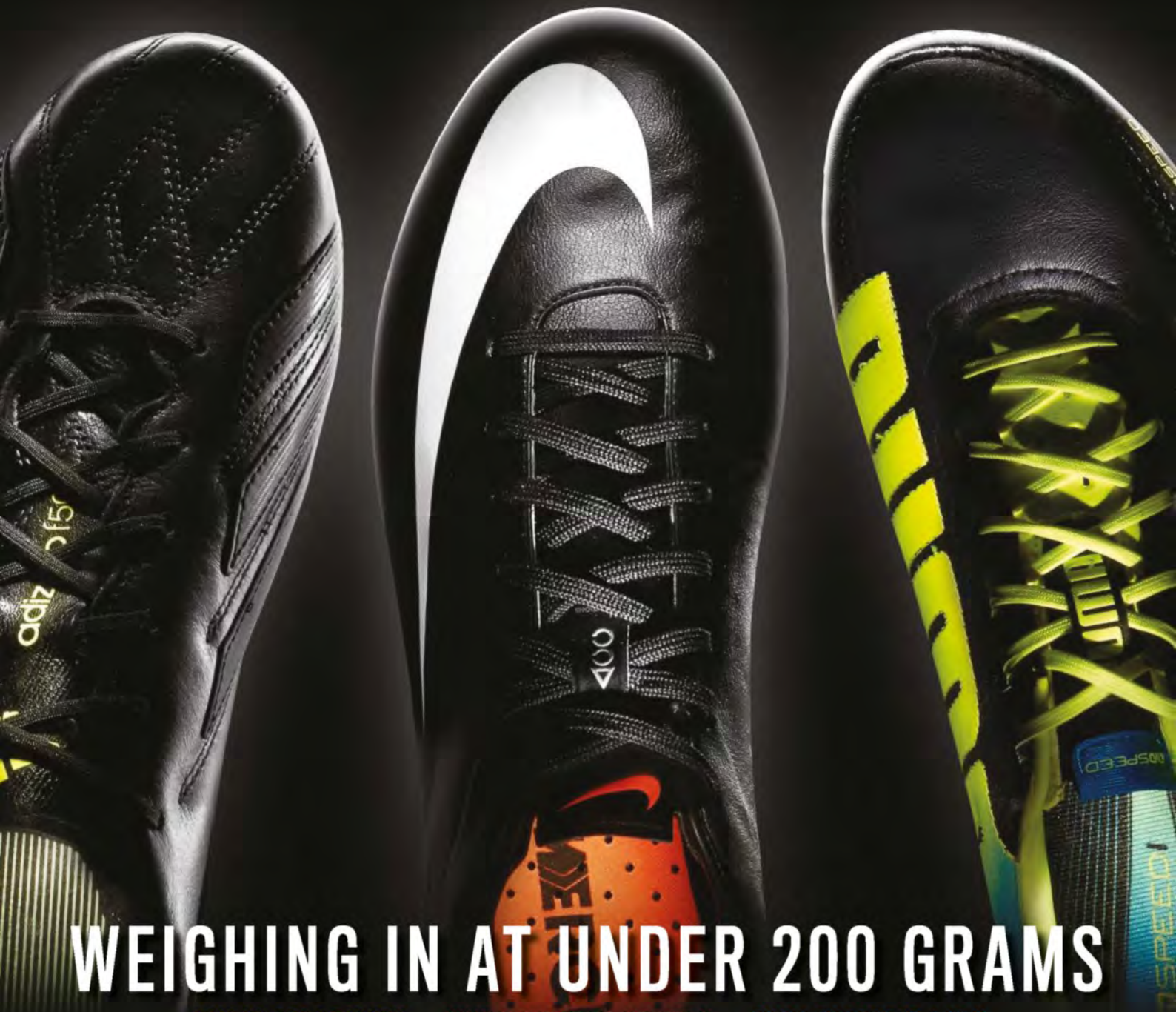

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